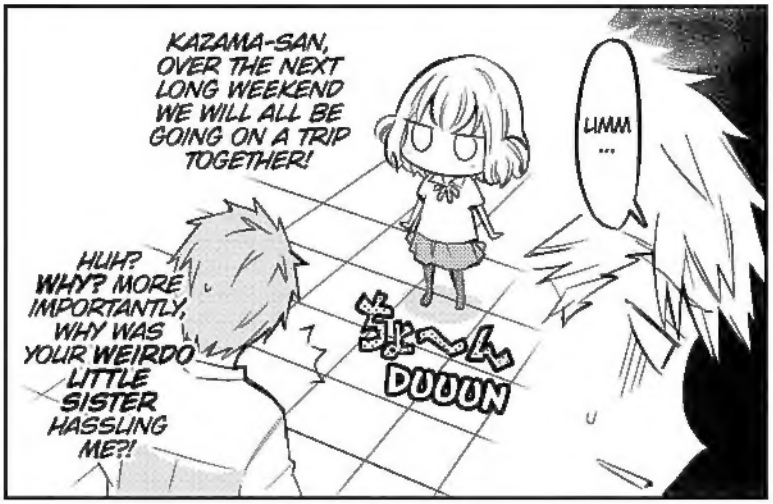
D_FRAG!
STORY AND ART
TOMOYA HARUNO
7

D-FRAGMENTS
Tomoya Haruno Presents
ディーふらぐ!

D-FRAG!

OKAY. SEE YA.
WE'LL BE BACK LATER, MOM.
Okay!


KAZAMA-SAN, OVER THE NEXT LONG WEEKEND WE WILL ALL BE GOING ON A TRIP TOGETHER!
UMM...
HUH? WHY? MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY WAS YOUR WEIRDO LITTLE SISTER HASSLING ME?!
どよーん
DUUUN

RIGHT.

ANY-WAYS, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, NOE?
HUH?

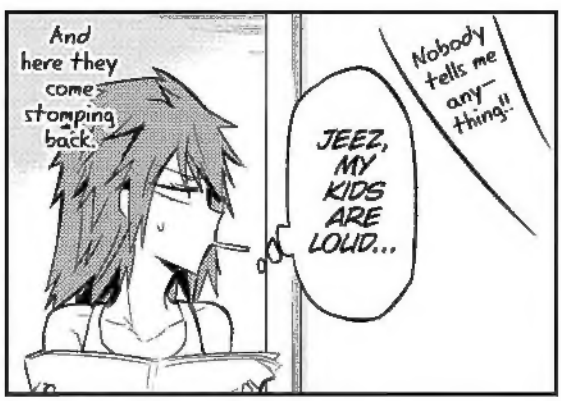
IF YOU DO NOT GO, YOU WILL BE DOOMED TO SPEND YOUR WHOLE LIFE WONDERING WHAT "THAT" TRULY IS.
?!!!
?

HUH? SO, WHATEVER "THAT" IS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHERE WE'RE GOING? TELL ME NOW OR I'M NOT COMING AT ALL!
AH, SO YOU FINALLY HAVE AN INKLING ABOUT "THAT," DO YOU? WELL THEN, "THAT" IS SOMETHING YOU WILL FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ON OUR TRIP.
QUIVER QUIVER

Chapter 45
Let's Have A Hundred Times the Fun Together!!
UH, THE SAME PLACE YOU ARE, OBVIOUSLY.
THEY ROPED YOU INTO THIS, TOO ?!!

HUH?! I'M SUPPOSED TO BRING SOME-THING?! NOBODY TOLD ME THAT EITHER!!
AREN'T YOU GONNA BRING ANY-THING?

NO-BODY'S TOLD ME A DAMN THING!!
WHAT, DIDN'T THEY TELL YOU?


And here they come stomping back.
JEEZ, MY KIDS ARE LOUD...
Nobody tells me any-thing!!

IT'S TAKING UP THE WHOLE WEEKEND ?! NOBODY TOLD ME THAT!! SCREW THIS, I'M NOT GOING!!
THIS TRIP IS LIKE, TWO DAYS LONG. YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT A CHANGE OF CLOTHES?

NOE, SPILL. TELL ME EVERY-THING YOU KNOW.
HUH?! WH-WHAT I KNOW?! UM...!

FINE...

SIGHT-SEEING? YES...YES, THERE WILL BE SIGHTS TO SEE, NOE-CHAN...IF YOU DARE.
EXCUSE ME, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT...IS IT TOO LATE FOR ME TO BACK OUT?

NOE-CHAN, LET'S ALL GO ON A TRIP TOGETHER OVER THE LONG WEEKEND!
HUH? LIKE SIGHT-SEEING? SURE.
BA-BAAAN

YOU MEAN I'M THE LAST ONE STANDING?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!!

I GUESS I GET TO BE THE ONLY LITTLE SISTER THEN. JUST LITTLE OLD ME AND BIG BRO KENJI! SHOULD BE FUN!
YOU DON'T WANT TO GO?
FOR THE LAST TIME, KENJI ONLY HAS ONE LITTLE SISTER!
GRR!

...AND THAT'S HOW IT WENT. I'M ONLY GOING BECAUSE SAKURA WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT IT, NOT THE LITTLE SISTER STUFF.
DAMMIT! THAT DOESN'T TELL ME ANYTHING I DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW!
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
WHATEVER. LET'S JUST GO CHECK IT OUT.
YEAH.
MAN, COULDN'T THEY AT LEAST HAVE GIVEN US A HINT ABOUT WHERE THE HELL WE'RE GOING?
KNOWING THEM, IT COULD BE ANYWHERE! THE MOUNTAINS, THE BEACH, THE CITY... WE'D BETTER NOT BE TAKING A PLANE. I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF CASH.
I DOUBT WE'LL BE FLYING ANYWHERE.
UGH. WHATEVER. I JUST HOPE IT'S CHEAP.
ME TOO ...!
GOOD THING MOM LENT ME SOME MONEY FOR THE TRIP.
Maybe I should get a part time job...
AHA!
NOE'CHI! SEMPAI! WHAT A COWINKY-DINK!
GAH! SAKURA ?!
AN INFO SOURCE !!

NOT THIS WATER!
OH, OKAY. THAT MAKES SENSE... WAIT! NO, IT DOESN'T! LEAVE IT!!
IS THERE NO WATER WHERE WE'RE GOING?!
PLASH
PLISH
.....
YOU WANT ME TO CARRY IT?!
NO WAY! YOU CAN'T FOIST THEM OFF ON ME!!
SO? LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED! YOU REALLY WANNA LUG ALL THAT ALONG?
It's really tasty.
BUT... THIS IS GOOD WATER.
PWEEE-ASE, ONII-CHAN? ♪
SNIFFLE
DON'T PULL THAT "ONII-CHAN" CRAP WITH ME!!
JUST LEAVE THAT STUFF! IT'S TOO HEAVY FOR YOU!
THOUGH, HE IS ACTING A TEENY BIT NICER TO HER NOW!

GUESS I'LL MAKE SOME TEA OR SOME-THING...
.....

GOD-DAMMIT, WHAT A WASTE OF TIME!!
ANIKI, WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE TO THE MEET-UP!
BOY, I FEEL SO MUCH LIGHTER NOW~!
YEAH, WELL YOU'VE ALREADY GOT ME EX-HAUST-ED!!

UH, GETTING STUCK IN A BUSH DOESN'T COUNT AS GETTING LOST IN THE WILDER-NESS!!
RUSTLE
I'M BACK IN CIVILI-ZATION!
THANK GOD, I FOUND A WAY OUT!

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
!!

BUT THE TRAINS AND BUSES WERE A NIGHTMARE! WHO KNEW ALL THE ROUTES AND TIMES CHANGE COMPLETELY FOR THE WEEKEND?
I KNOW I ASKED THIS BEFORE, BUT WHERE ARE YOU COMMUTING FROM AGAIN?
FROM HACHI-OUJI.
WHERE IN HACHI-OUJI?!
UM, IT'S A BIT INAP-PROPRIATE FOR A MALE STUDENT TO ASK HIS FEMALE TEACHER FOR HER ADDRESS, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU LIVE! I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT ROUTE YOU TOOK TO GET HERE!!
.....

ANYWAY, I'M FILTHY RIGHT NOW AND COULD REALLY USE A SHOWER.
KAZAMA-SEMPAI'S HOUSE IS REALLY CLOSE TO HERE! ♪
REALLY? GREAT. I'LL SHOWER THERE.
SO, IT'S OKAY FOR THAT FEMALE TEACHER TO GO TO HER MALE STUDENT'S HOUSE AND SHOWER?!
sweaty

.....
WANT ME TO PUT ON SOME TEA?
DON'T BOTHER!

WHAT IS THIS, THE "EVERYBODY HANGS AROUND KAZAMA'S HOUSE" ARC?!

Wait, she's your teacher ?!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SITTING AROUND LETTING YOUR HAIR AIR DRY! WE'RE ALREADY WAY LATE TO THE MEET-UP!

YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT AFTER BARGING INTO OUR HOUSE AND USING OUR SHOWER ?!
NO, I WOULDN'T WANT TO ADD TO YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL. THIS FAN IS GOOD ENOUGH.
UH, SENSEI? YOU CAN USE OUR HAIRDRYER.

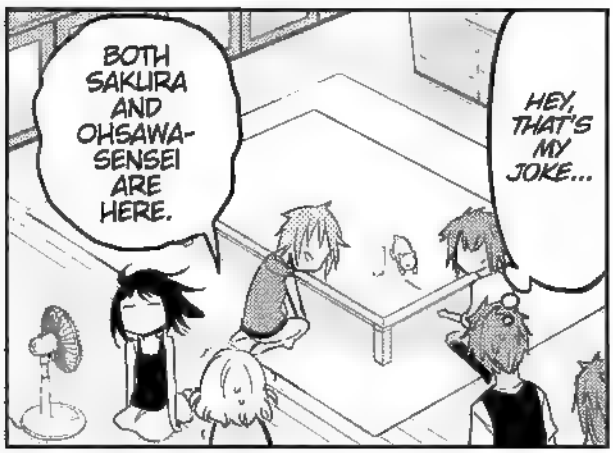
DING DONG
DING DONG
KNOCK

DING DONG
DING DONG
!!
Er, it's nice to meet you. You do so much for my son and daughter.
Nah, it's no big thing.

WAIT... IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU AT THE STATION ALL DAY !!
Pearl!!
WE WERE SO EXCITED FOR TODAY, WE'VE BEEN WAITING SINCE 5 AM!!
HUH?! YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT THAT MUCH?!
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
CHITOSE! TELL MR. LAZY MCLATER-SON HOW DISAP-POINTED YOU ARE!!
HUH? OH, YEAH, ROKA-CHAN'S RIGHT, MR. LATEY-LATE.
OH MY GOD, SHE CAN BARELY KEEP HER EYES OPEN!

AGH!! LOOK AT YOU!! WHAT IS THIS, THE "EVERYONE HANGS AROUND KAZAMA-SAN'S HOUSE" ARC?!

DON'T TELL ME... DID THEY BOTH SLEEP OVER HERE LAST NIGHT?!
NOPE !!
TWITCH


BOTH SAKURA AND OHSAWA-SENSEI ARE HERE.
HEY, THAT'S MY JOKE...

WHAT THE--?! DO YOU GET THIS WEIRD WHEN YOU'RE SHORT ON SLEEP, TOO?!
AH, YES. THAT'S EVEN BETTER THAN A SLEEPOVER. KAZAMA-SAN AND I SPENDING THE WHOLE WEEKEND TOGETHER... OH DEAR. THE EXCITEMENT THAT I HAD MANAGED TO GET UNDER CONTROL IS STARTING TO BUBBLE FORTH AGAIN...

YOU HAD A SLEEP-OVER AND DIDN'T INVITE ME?!
WE'RE ALREADY SPENDING THE WHOLE WEEKEND TO-GETHER!

I...I CAN'T STOP MYSELF. FLOOR SOOO NICE... SOOO SLEEE-EEPY...
GO SLEEP IN YOUR OWN HOUSE !!
GUYS, MY HAIR'S DRY NOW. WE CAN LEAVE WHENEVER.
shiiine シャキーン
I REALLY WISH YOU HAD SAID THAT TEN SECONDS AGO!!
SO... TEA, ANYONE?
SURE ...
THERE.
LET'S LET THOSE TWO SLEEP AND JUST FORGET ABOUT GOING TO WHEREVER "THERE" IS FOR WHATEVER "THAT" IS.
!!

KAZAMA-SEMPAI JUST DOESN'T REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT "THAT" IS YET.
THAT'S RIGHT. I DON'T!
AND I DON'T CARE, EITHER!

I DIDN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT WHATEVER "THAT" WAS ANYWAY.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

IF SHIBASAKI AND THE OTHERS HAVE KEPT IT SECRET THIS LONG, THEN FAR BE IT FROM ME TO LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG.
BESIDES, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT "THAT" MYSELF.
YOU DON'T KNOW EITHER ?!
IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN SAY ABOUT IT, IT'S THIS...

WAIT... SO IF WE DON'T GO TO "THAT," IT COULD AFFECT THE CLUB ITSELF?
PRECI-SELY.
.....

"THAT" IS THE ONE REAL CLUB ACTIVITY THAT THE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP) ACTUALLY TAKES SERIOUSLY.
I THINK.
YOU THINK ?!
KENJI IS IN A GAME CLUB? NEWS TO ME.

Hmm...

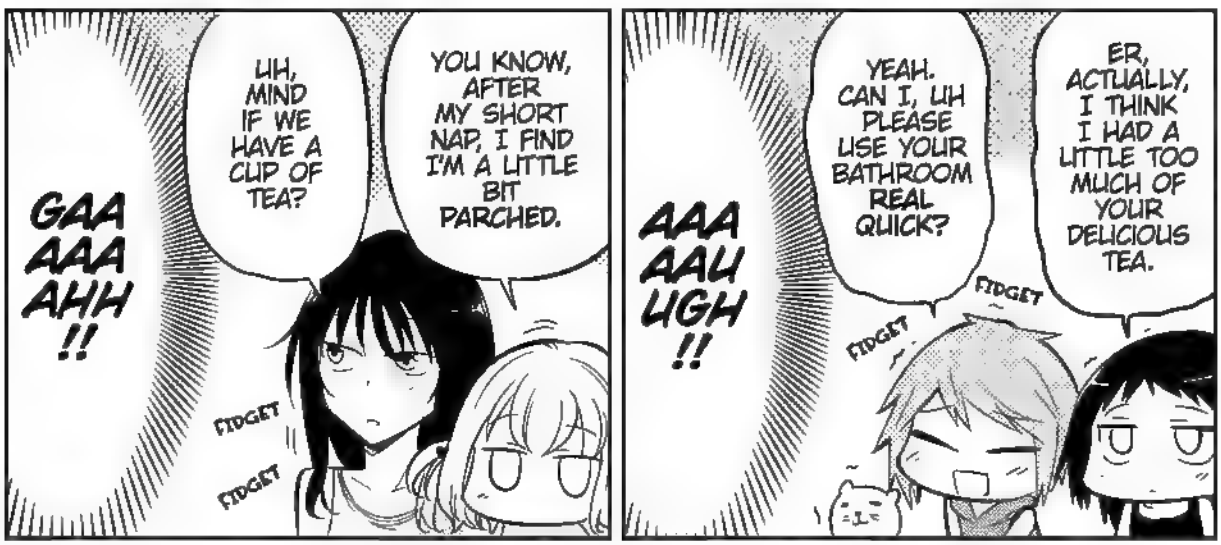
I'M NOT WAF-FLING ABOUT IT!!
YEAH, YOU WERE. A LITTLE BIT, AT LEAST.
Ow. I always forget how sharp your hair is.
THEN WHAT'RE YOU SITTIN' AROUND HERE FOR? QUIT WAFFLING ABOUT IT AND GET GOING ALREADY!
WHACK
OW !!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH A MYSTERY EVENT? SOUNDS LIKE FUN TO ME.
IT MUST BE SOME-THING BIG.
THOSE TWO WERE SO EXCITED ABOUT IT, THEY GOT UP AT 5 AM.
GOING OUT WITH FRIENDS IS A HUNDRED TIMES MORE FUN THAN SITTING AROUND THE HOUSE DOING NOTHING.
BESIDES, IF YOU DON'T GO, EVERYBODY'S JUST GOING TO KICK AROUND HERE DOING NOTHING.
HM?
.....
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

KENJI-KUN IS LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A GOOD ROLE MODEL.
HUH?! UH, THANKS. BUT I'M USUALLY WAY MORE HANDS-OFF THAN THIS!
YEAH! IT WOULD BE A HUNDRED TIMES MORE FUN! MOM'S GOT IT RIGHT! IT'LL BE A HUNDRED TIMES THE FUN FOR ALL OF US! A HUNDRED TIMES!!
WHA? O-OKAY. UH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP SAYING IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
AND I'M NOT YOUR MOTHER !!
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! LET'S GET GOING TO THE (PROBABLY EXCITING) "THAT."
SEMPAI! NOE'CHI! LET'S GO HAVE A HUNDRED TIMES THE FUN TOGETHER! ♪
HEY! WHOA! COULD YOU PLEASE CALM DOWN! YOU'RE WEIRDING MY KIDS OUT... AND ME!!

MOM. I'M GOING.
WHAT, BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO UNCOM-FORTABLE TO STAY HERE?!
FIRE ARCHER!
FIFTEEN-MINUTE POWER NAP OVER! TIME TO GET UP!!
FOOOOM!!
DAMMIT! THOSE TWO SET THEIR CELL PHONE ALARMS!!
ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES SLEEP AND THEY CAN JUMP AWAKE LIKE THAT?! AH, TO BE YOUNG...
SORRY. I'M THE TYPE TO GET AS MUCH SLEEP AS POSSIBLE. I COULD NEVER DO THAT.

ALL RIGHT, KAZAMA-SAN! LET US GO DO "THAT" TOGETHER AND HAVE A HUNDRED TIMES THE FUN!!
Wait, wrong people ...
Mornin' Onee-chan.
GYA AAA AAA AAA AAH !!

COME! LET'S GO! RIGHT NOW! HURRY! A HUNDRED TIMES THE FUN IS JUST BEYOND THIS DOOR !!
Yaaay!
OKAY, OKAY! WE'RE GOING! JUST DON'T SAY THAT AGAIN!!
YES! PLEASE! GO!!
TROMP


ER, ACTUALLY, I THINK I HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH OF YOUR DELICIOUS TEA.
YEAH. CAN I, UH PLEASE USE YOUR BATHROOM REAL QUICK?
AAA AAU UGH !!
FIDGET
FIDGET
YOU KNOW, AFTER MY SHORT NAP, I FIND I'M A LITTLE BIT PARCHED.
UH, MIND IF WE HAVE A CUP OF TEA?
GAA AAA AHH !!
FIDGET
FIDGET

AAAAAAAAAAH!
YES! NOW WE'RE FINALLY READY!
RIGHT...
DON'T YOU SAY ANY-THING! JUST... DON'T!!

OH, BY THE WAY...
WHERE'S SHIO? STILL WAITING AT THE STATION?

.....
REALLY?

AAAAAAAAAAAAH!!
OR GOING INTO TOWN WITH FRIENDS.
LUCKY SHIO. I WOULD SOOO RATHER SPEND THE WEEKEND HANGING OUT AT HOME...
ゴロン
ゴロン

Come on, everyone! Hurry! We're almost out of time!!
What, we are ?!

D-FRAGMENTS
ディーふらぐ!

SPLAAAASH...
Chapter-46
You Just Inhaled What?!

A FERRY. HUH? DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING.
AT LEAST IT'S CHEAPER THAN TAKING A PLANE.

BUT IT ALSO MEANS...
THAT WE CAN'T ESCAPE.
BLOOOSH

THERE YA GO! THAT'S IT!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE WANT TO.
BIFF BIFF BIFF
ドパパパ
HI-YAA-AAH! YAH! YAH! YAH! YAH!!
パ
Boff
パ
Boff
Boff

YAMMER YAMMER
THAT'S A "KILL MOVE"?
YEAH, BUT IT NEEDS A LOT OF WORK.
YAMMER
BUT IF SHE DOES PER-FECT IT...
GOLD!
THERE, SEE?! YOU'RE STARTING TO ATTRACT A CROWD OF FELLOW CRAZY PEOPLE!!

HEH. IF YOU CAN GET THIS KILL MOVE DOWN, IT'LL BE A GREAT SECRET TECHNIQUE TO HAVE UP YOUR SLEEVE.
IF IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SECRET, MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T PRACTICE OUT ON DECK WHERE EVERYONE'S WATCHING?!

"BAG PUNCH"? WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?! QUIT TRYING TO MAKE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR BAGS AND GET SOME REAL GLOVES!!
HUFF HUFF
JUST A LITTLE MORE... I'M SO CLOSE TO PERFECTING MY BAG PUNCH!

HUH?
OH MY GAWD, ROKA-ONEECHAN IS SOOOOOOO COOL!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
WH-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY ASKING ME THAT?!
HUH?!
WHO?
GAH! KAZAMA!!
JOLT
BWAH?!!
Hey, Tsu-tsu-i.
TOTTER
AH. TSU-TSUJI-CHAN IS HERE.
SQUEE!!
ONEE-CHAN!!
FEH! SO YOU ACTUALLY CAME, EH? I GUESS YOU'VE GOT SOME GUTS AFTER ALL... NO. I TAKE THAT BACK. I'M NOT GONNA COMPLIMENT YOU ON ANYTHING, EVER!
YOU KNOW, IF YOU HAD ACTUALLY BOTHERED TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO COME AT ALL.

SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
HUG
ONEECHAN, I MISSED YOU SO MUCH!! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THIS MORNING!
TP TP TP
UH, THIS MORNING WAS JUST A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO.
TSUTSUJI-CHAN! AS OF TODAY, ANY FRIEND-LINESS AND SISTERLY LOVE BETWEEN US IS FORBID-DEN!!
DOOOOM
WE WILL BE ENEMIES! WAIT, NO... WE'RE ALREADY ENEMIES!!
!!
BESIDES, I HAVE NOE-CHAN HERE AS MY NEW LITTLE SISTER.
Heh heh heh...
HEY! DON'T SWIPE MY SISTER.
HOLD ON... IS THAT THE ONLY REASON YOU BROUGHT NOE ALONG?!
.....
GURGL GURGL
BLRPH BLRPH
HEY!
LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO YOUR REAL LITTLE SISTER!!
(!)
GLARE

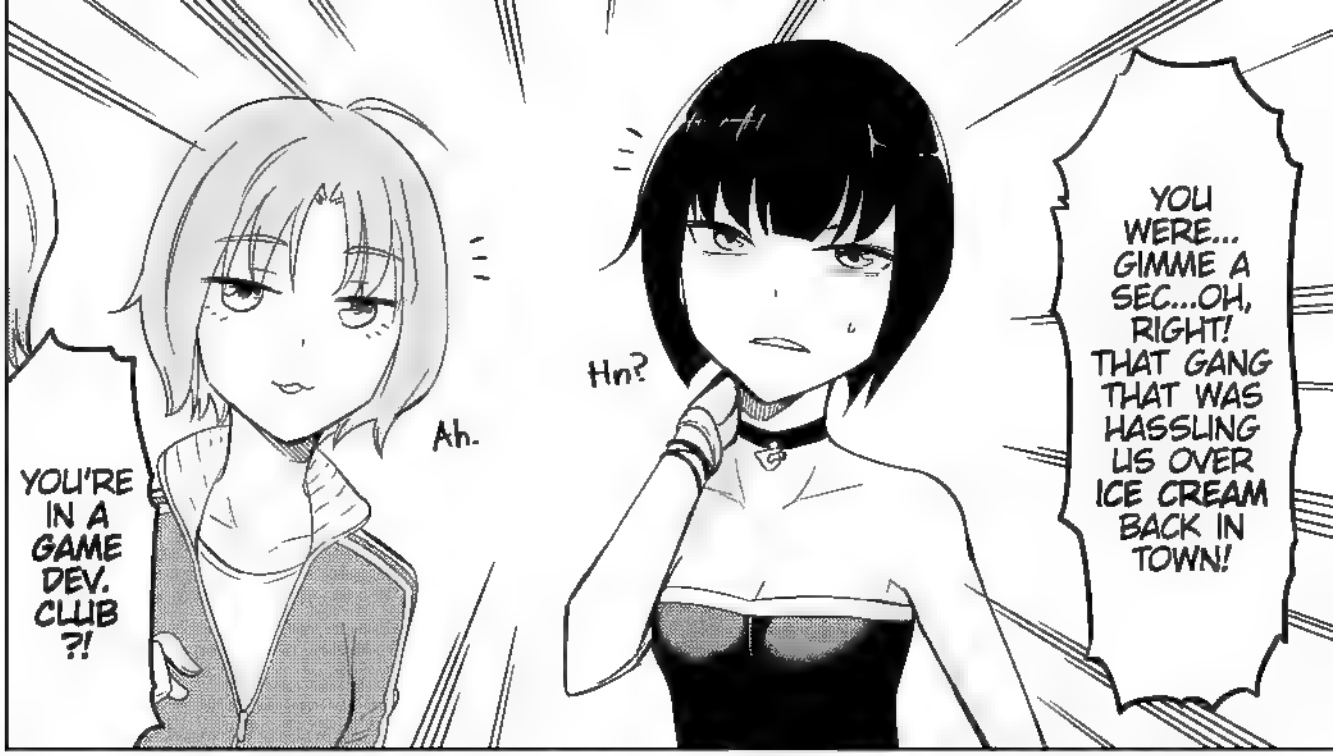
SNIFFLE
SHAKE
SHAKE
NO, I DON'T WANT YOU! I DON'T WANT AN ONIICHAN! I WANT MY ONEE-CHAN BACK!!
I DON'T WANT YOU FOR A LITTLE SISTER, EITHER.
AND QUIT SHAKING ME!
W-WELL THEN, I'LL JUST STEAL HIM AS MY NEW ONII-CHAN!
WSH

I NEVER EXPECTED TO COME ACROSS A NEW LITTLE SISTER RIVAL HERE. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STEP UP MY GAME!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

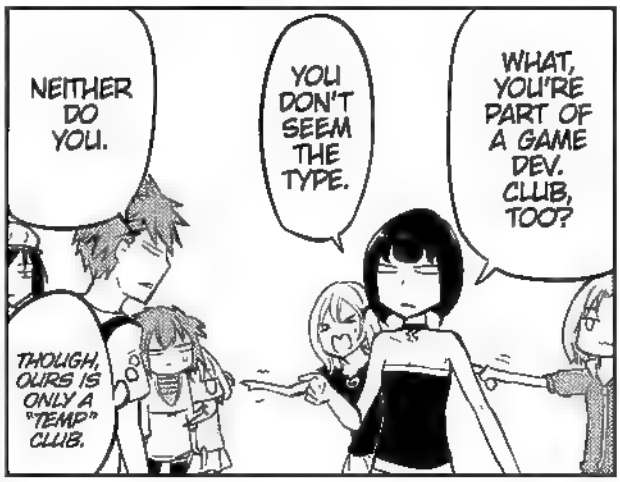
WAIT, THIS MEANS THAT WE'RE BOTH FULLY RECOGNIZED AS OFFICIAL LITTLE SISTERS NOW.
RIGHT, NOE-CHI?!
"BOTH" ?!

AH! SEM-PAI!
WHAT, YOU GUYS AGAIN ?

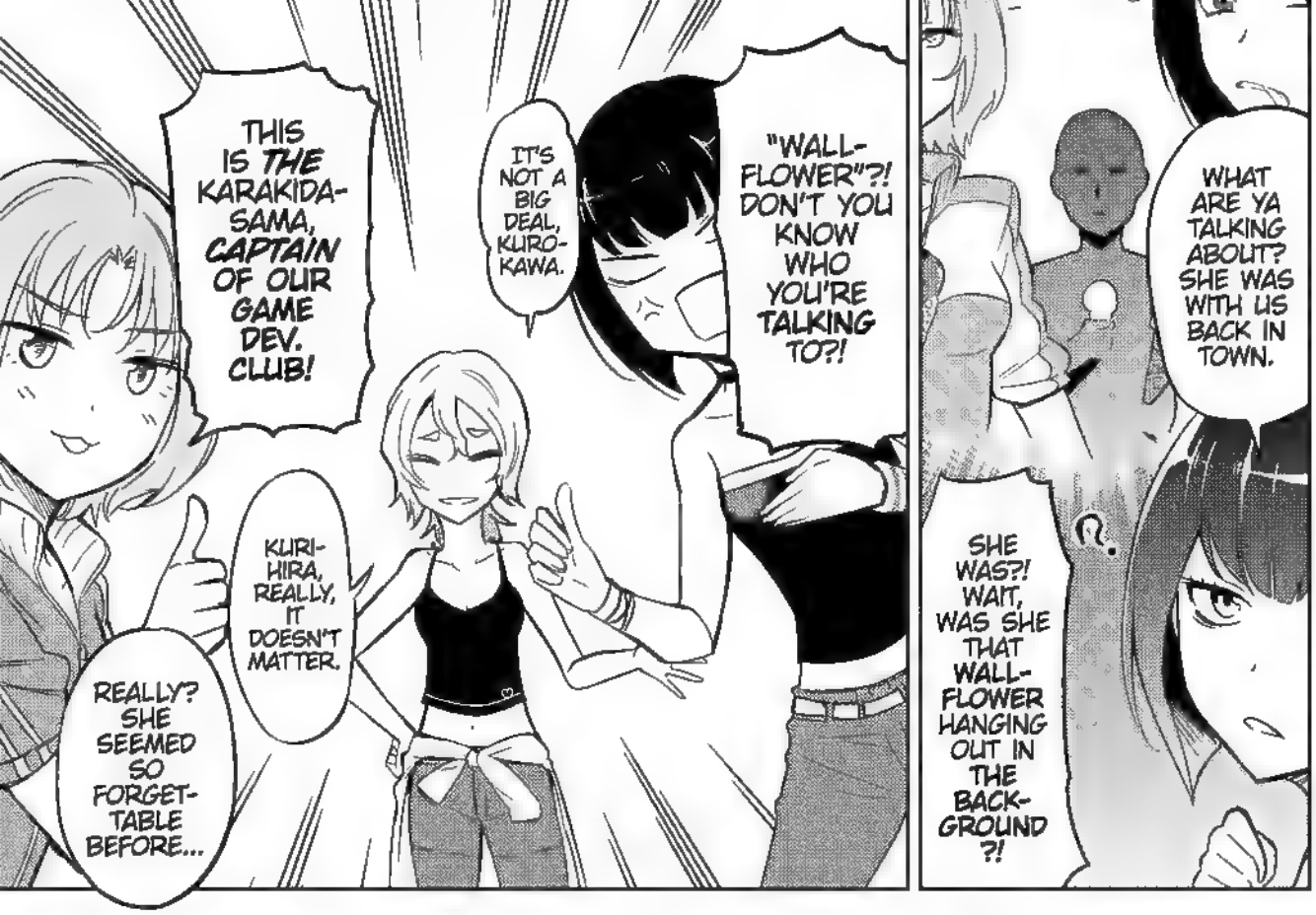
HEY, TSU-TSUJI.
QUIT ACTING ALL FRIENDLY WITH THE ENEMY.
TMP



※ See Volume 6, Ch. 40.



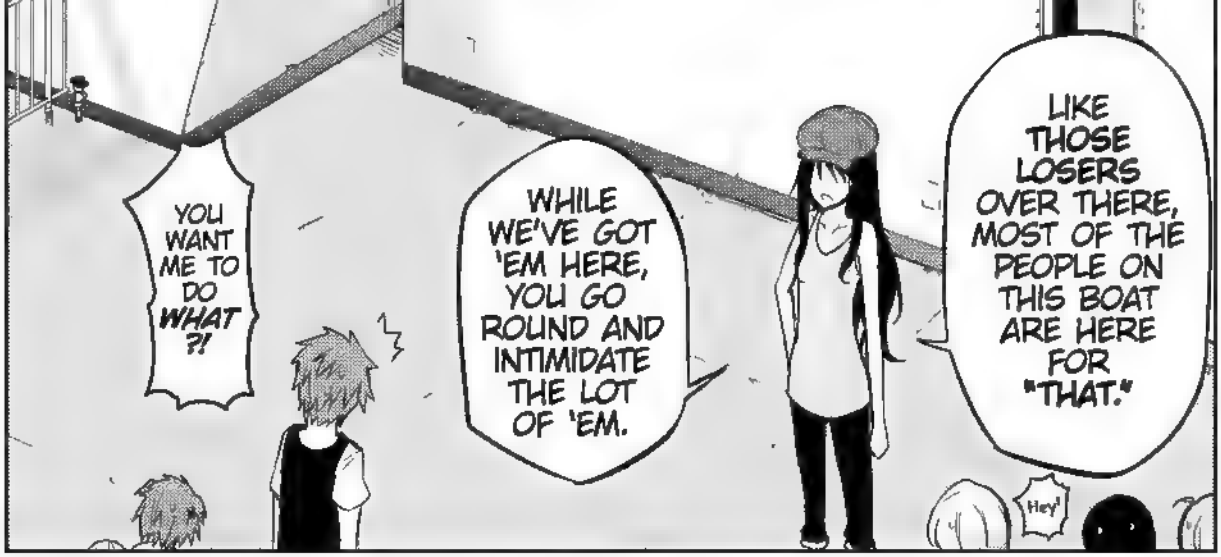
SEMPAI!
MORE NEW PEOPLE? WHO THE HECK IS THIS?
I'M SURE YOU AND YOUR SISTER WILL MAKE UP ONCE THINGS COOL DOWN. BESIDES, HOW ABOUT YOU USE "THAT" TO SHOW HER HOW MUCH MORE AWESOMER YOU ARE AS A LITTLE SISTER?
PAT
CALM DOWN, TSU-TSUJI. IT'S OKAY.

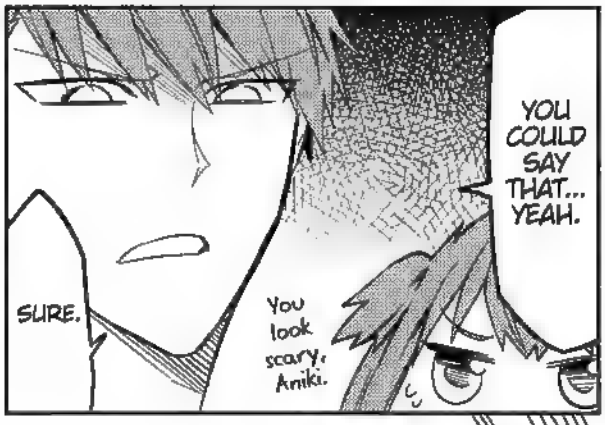

THIS IS THE KARAKIDA-SAMA, CAPTAIN OF OUR GAME DEV. CLUB!
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, KURO-KAWA.
"WALL-FLOWER"?! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?!
KURI-HIRA, REALLY, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
REALLY? SHE SEEMED SO FORGET-TABLE BEFORE...
WHAT ARE YA TALKING ABOUT? SHE WAS WITH US BACK IN TOWN.
SHE WAS?! WAIT, WAS SHE THAT WALL-FLOWER HANGING OUT IN THE BACK-GROUND?!

HAVEN'T HEARD THAT BEFORE!
GRIN
GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY TO IMPRESS YOU THIS TIME!
OH. SO, I'M "FOR-GET-TABLE," EH?

AHA! KARA-KIDA-CHAN! KURO-KAWA-CHAN! KURI-HIRA-CHAN!
THERE YOU ARE! DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND LIKE THAT!
WELL, HERE COMES SOMEBODY WHO'S ACTUALLY SUPER BLAND AND FORGET-TABLE! LEMME GUESS, SHE'S REALLY THE MYSTERY THIRD GIRL?!

OH, HELLO! DO YOU REMEMBER ME? MY NAME IS ODA. WE MET NOT THAT LONG AGO. THOUGH PEOPLE TELL ME I'M EASILY FORGETTABLE.
YOUR FRIEND... TAKAO, RIGHT? DID SHE LIKE HER OUTFIT?
THAT PROVES IT! IT WAS HER!!
WAS SHE THERE ...?
Wait a sec...
OH, SO ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU AREN'T SO SURE ANY-MORE?!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER MEET YOU BEFORE...
ARGH!! WHAT IS UP WITH ALL OF YOU?! CAN'T YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ?!
HEY! ENOUGH PLAYING NICEY-NICE WITH THE SCRUBS.
SCRUBS ?!
KAZAMA! GET OVER HERE. I'VE GOT SOMETHING I NEED YOU TO DO.
WHAT ?


LIKE THOSE LOSERS OVER THERE, MOST OF THE PEOPLE ON THIS BOAT ARE HERE FOR "THAT."
Hey!
WHILE WE'VE GOT 'EM HERE, YOU GO ROUND AND INTIMIDATE THE LOT OF 'EM.
YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT?!

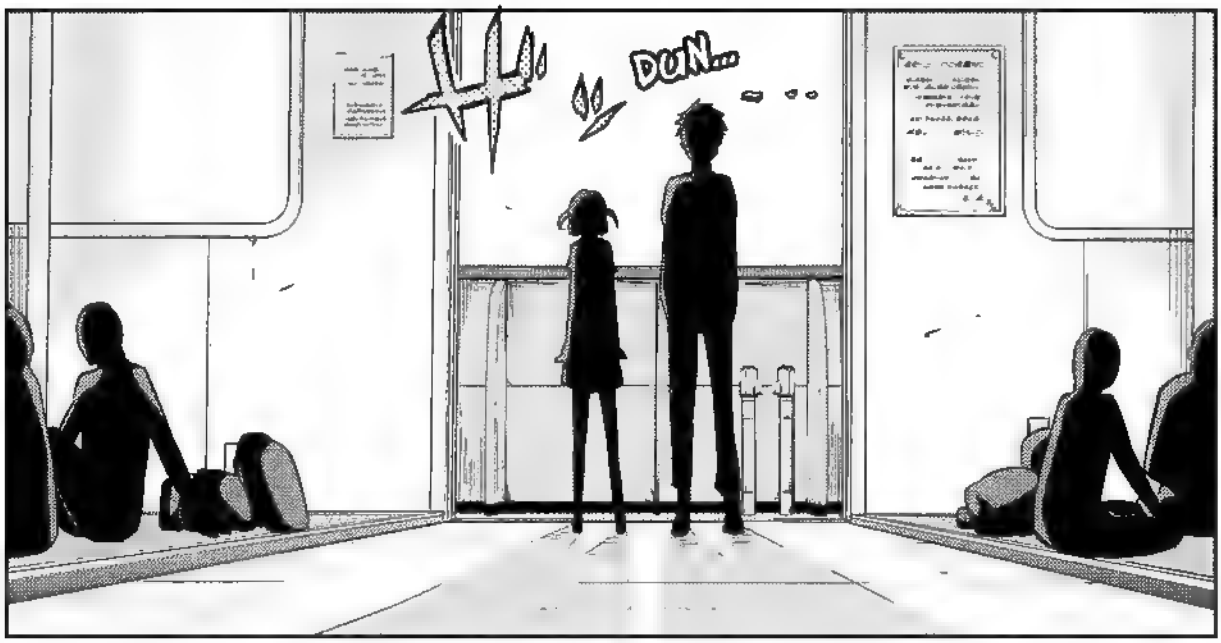

YOU COULD SAY THAT... YEAH.
You look scary, Aniki.
SURE.

WELL, YOU'RE GOOD AT THAT KIND OF THING.
Right?

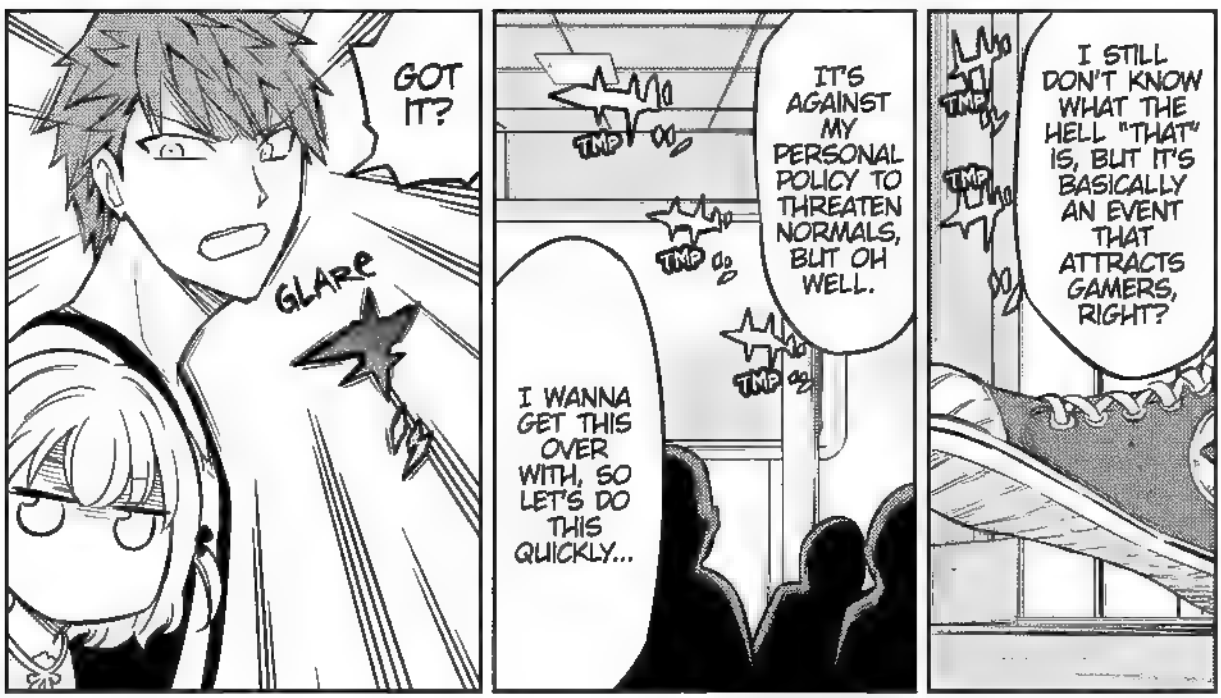
Onee—

GLARE
!!
Me?!

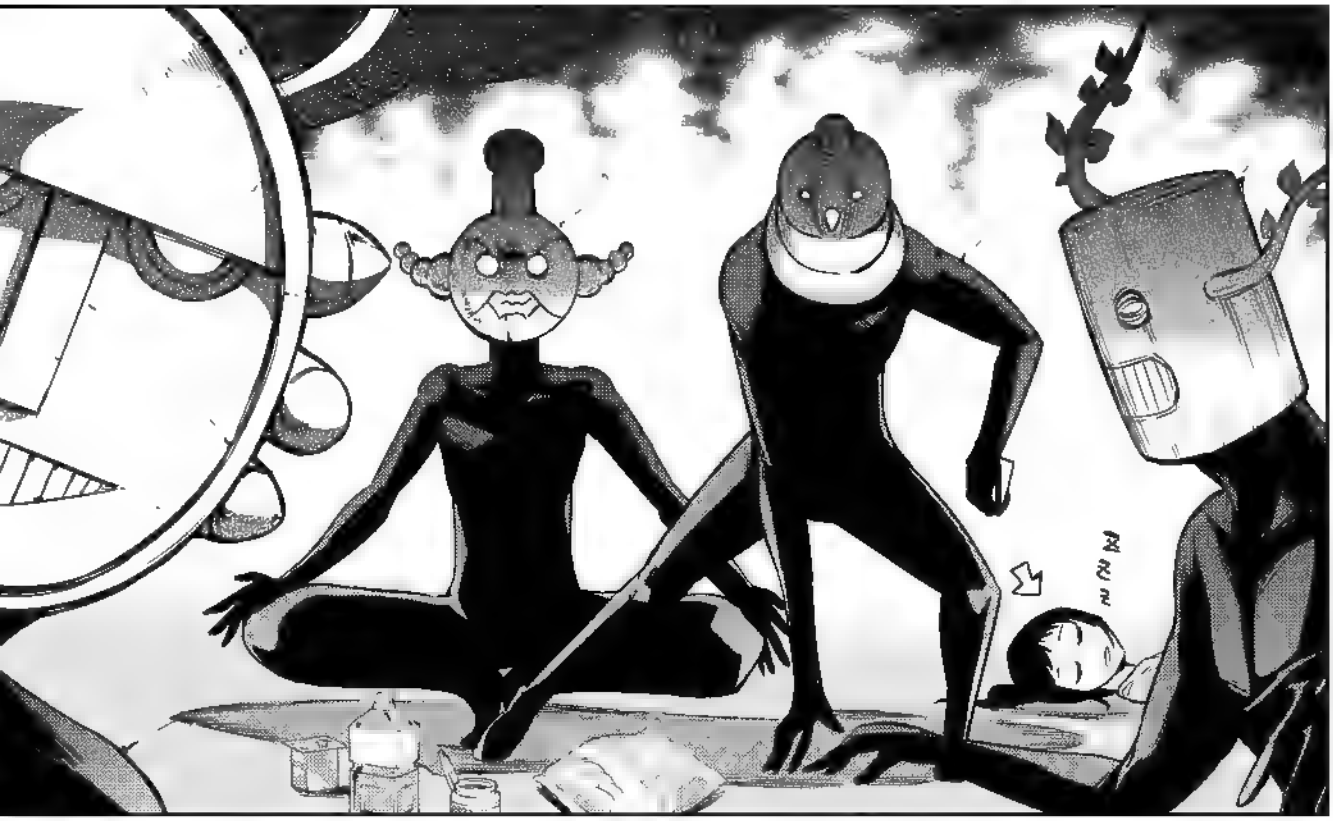
I DON'T LIKE TAKING ORDERS, BUT IT ISN'T LIKE I HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO DO.
GOOD! ROKA, YOU GO ALONG AS A BODY-GUARD.
AND I WANNA GET AWAY FROM THOSE LOONIES.
DON
Onee-chan!
I GUESS I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO EITHER.


DUN...

RIGHT. LET'S DO THIS.
YES, SIR, KAZAMA-SAN! YES, SIR!!
HARUMPH!
HUMPH!
VISUALLY, YOU'RE AS TERRIFYING AS A KITTEN, SO STAY BEHIND ME, OKAY?


GOT IT?
GLARE
TMP
TMP
TMP
IT'S AGAINST MY PERSONAL POLICY TO THREATEN NORMALS, BUT OH WELL.
I WANNA GET THIS OVER WITH, SO LET'S DO THIS QUICKLY...
TMP
TMP
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL "THAT" IS, BUT IT'S BASICALLY AN EVENT THAT ATTRACTS GAMERS, RIGHT?

GLARE
TOKEN FEMALE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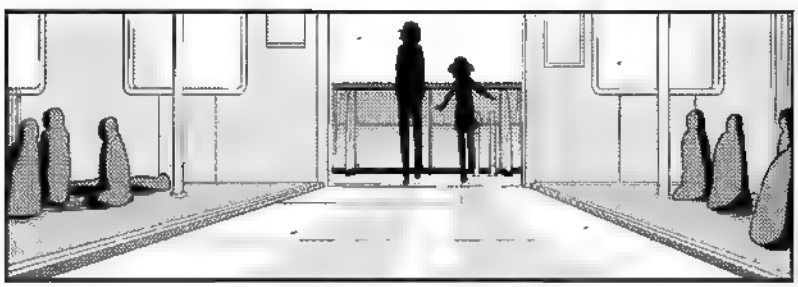


RIGHT. I FORGOT. EVEN IN OUR TINY SCHOOL, WE STILL HAVE A PACK OF WEIRDOS LIKE YOU.
STAGGER...
"WEIRD-OS"?!
AND THERE ARE EVEN STRANGER PEOPLE OUT THERE...
OF COURSE THEY'D ALL END UP ON THIS FRIGGIN' BOAT.
"NORMALS" ...?!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
FWIF

EXCUSE ME! CAN I HAVE MY HAT BACK?
OH, SURE HERE...
A HAT?
Where'd it come from?
Nice catch.
HUH?
NAB

For catching... it...
THANKS SO MUCH!
TAP TAP TAP

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, TAKAO?
WHY ARE YOU TOGE-THER ?!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUH ?!

HEY! GIVE THAT BACK !!
ON THREE. ONE... TWO...

AH! SO YOU KNOW WHAT THE HELL "THAT" IS, TAKAO?!
THAT WHAT ?
NOBODY'S TELLING ME A DAMN THING!
ME? WELL, WE GOT NOTICE THAT OUR GAME DEV. CLUB WAS QUALIFIED TO ATTEND ...
SO, WE'RE ALL HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN "THAT."
YES, BUT THERE'S ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPOTS AVAILABLE.
CAN MULTIPLE CLUBS FROM THE SAME SCHOOL PARTICIPATE?
PSST
PSST
PSST

HMPH!
SO, NOW YOU'RE GIVING ME THE SILENT TREATMENT, TOO?!
HUH ?! WHA ?!
TELL ME! TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!! WHAT THE HELL HAVE I BEEN DRAGGED INTO?!
Too close!!

I'M SURE IT'LL BE A FUN EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE!
RIIIGHT ...
WHY WON'T YOU LOOK AT ME?
WHRL
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS MYSELF. THE FORM JUST SAYS IT'S A "RECREATIONAL GAME" THAT ALL LOCAL SCHOOLS CAN PARTICIPATE IN...I GUESS?

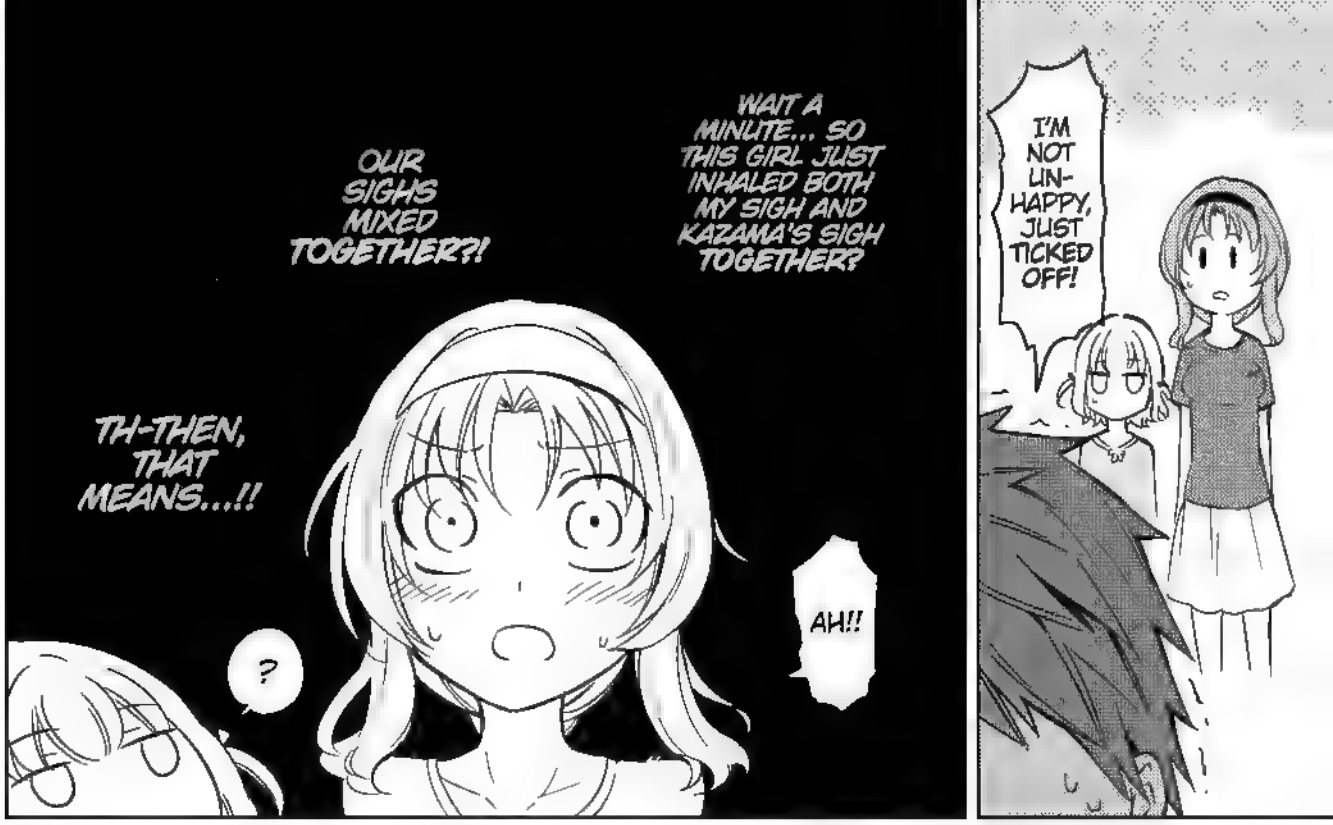
IF OUR CLUB CAPTAIN IS SCARED, THEN YEAH, IT'S PRETTY BAD.
IS... IS IT REALLY THAT BAD?
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
?!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE SOMETHING AWFUL!! GAAAH!! WHY DIDN'T I DIG IN MY HEELS AND STAY HOME?!
WH-WH-WH-WHAT?! TAKAO-SAN, ARE YOU TRULY PARTICIPATING IN "THAT" AS IF IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A FUN PASTIME?!

Who, me?!
YOU SHOULD TRY THAT.
YOU KNOW, SHE'S NOT THE MOST DEPENDABLE PERSON, BUT SHE AT LEAST CARES ABOUT HER CLUB MEMBERS.
I'M A FAILLIRE AS A CAPT-AIN!
OH NO! WHAT SORT OF INSANE EVENT HAVE I BROUGHT MY POOR CLUB MEMBERS TO?!

はーーーっ
SIIIGH...
GREAT. WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NOW?
!!
YEAH, THANKS BUT NO THANKS.
YOU COULD... JOIN US, IF YOU WANT.

ALL THE OTHER PASSEN-GERS ARE WEIRDOS ...
SWOOOO
HM?
MPH
MPH
GULP!
MMMM~!! YUMMY!!
MY FAVOR-ITE!!
SIGHS ARE DELI-CIOUS! ♪
GRIN!
YOU JUST INHALED WHAT?!

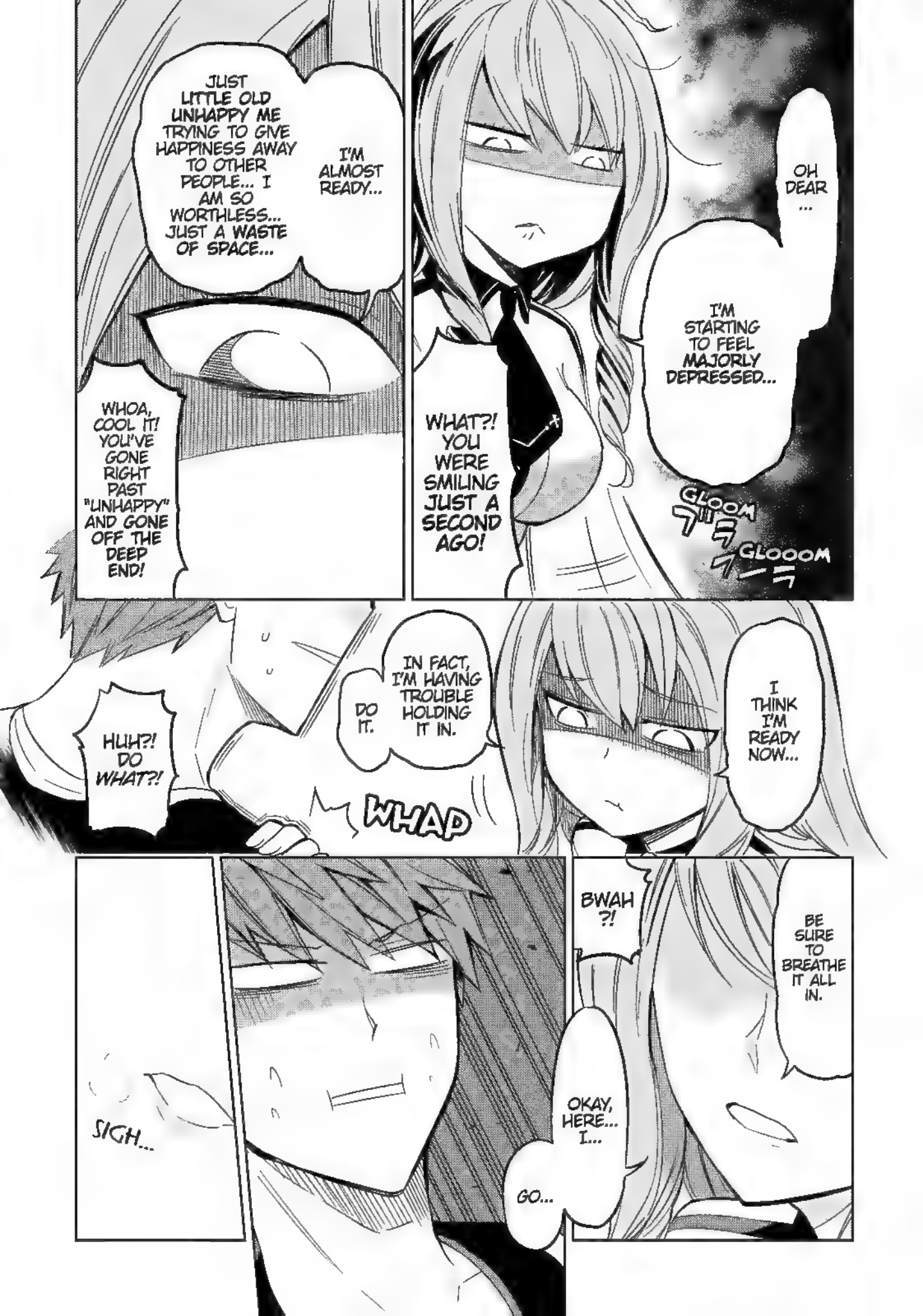
yammer
yammer
yammer
yammer
yammer
WELL THEN, I FIGURED THAT MUST MEAN THAT SIGHS ARE FILLED WITH HAPPINESS. MAKE SENSE, RIGHT?
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW THEY SAY THAT WHEN YOU SIGH, YOU LET YOUR HAPPINESS ESCAPE, RIGHT?
WHY!! I WANT TO KNOW WHY!!
THE ATMOSPHERE BELONGS TO EVERYONE. WHAT'S WRONG WITH INHALING THE SIGHS THAT HAVE MIXED IN WITH THE FRESH SEA BREEZE?
?
WHY?
IN!
OTHER!
WORDS!
IF I INHALE EVERYONE ELSE'S SIGHS...
THEN I'LL BECOME THAT MUCH HAPPIER!
WHAP
GIVE ME MY HAP-PINESS BACK, RIGHT NOW!
OH MY! I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WOULD MAKE YOU THIS UNHAPPY.


I'M NOT UN-HAPPY, JUST TICKED OFF!
AH!!
?
TH-THEN, THAT MEANS...!!
OUR SIGHS MIXED TOGETHER?!
WAIT A MINUTE... SO THIS GIRL JUST INHALED BOTH MY SIGH AND KAZAMA'S SIGH TOGETHER?

IT'S LIKE AN INDIRECT K-K-KISS...?! NOOO-OOOO!!
AN INDIRECT WHAT?!
JOLT
GOODNESS. SHE'S AWFULLY HIGH STRUNG, ISN'T SHE?

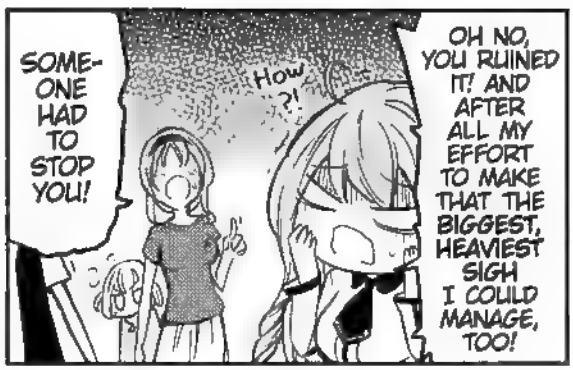
PLEASE WAIT JUST A MOMENT. I NEED TO GET READY.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

ALL RIGHT. IF YOU ARE THAT DESPERATE TO HAVE IT BACK, I SHALL RETURN YOUR HAPPINESS TO YOU.
Wa-hahn!
HUH?

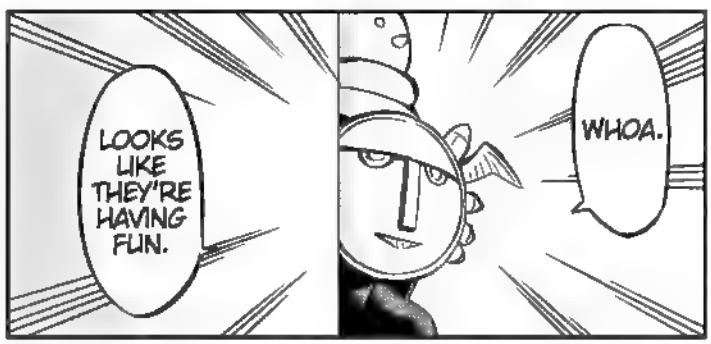

OH DEAR...
I'M STARTING TO FEEL MAJORLY DEPRESSED...
GLOOM
GLOOOM
WHAT?! YOU WERE SMILING JUST A SECOND AGO!
JUST LITTLE OLD UNHAPPY ME TRYING TO GIVE HAPPINESS AWAY TO OTHER PEOPLE... I AM SO WORTHLESS... JUST A WASTE OF SPACE...
I'M ALMOST READY...
WHOA, COOL IT! YOU'VE GONE RIGHT PAST "UNHAPPY" AND GONE OFF THE DEEP END!
I THINK I'M READY NOW...
IN FACT, I'M HAVING TROUBLE HOLDING IT IN.
DO IT.
HUH?! DO WHAT?!
WHAP
BE SURE TO BREATHE IT ALL IN.
BWAH?!
OKAY, HERE... I...
GO...
SIGH...

NOOOOOOOO!!!
KRCK
FWOOMP
!!
SHIGH

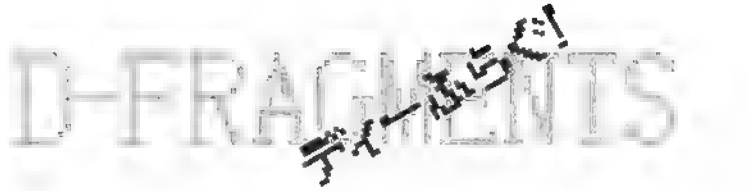
I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP THAT POOR, UNHAPPY GENTLEMAN! WHY DID YOU PUT A BAG ON HIS HEAD ?!
MRPH...
YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND SIGHING ON PEOPLE! IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT!

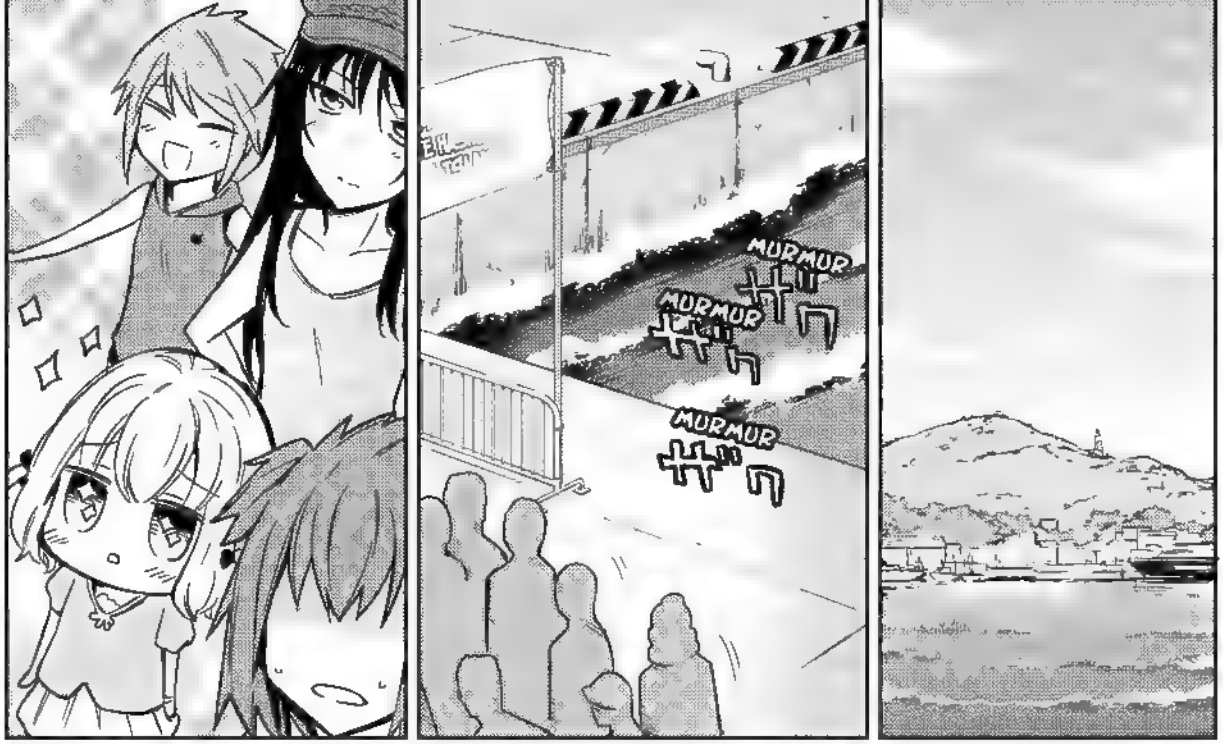

SOME-ONE HAD TO STOP YOU!
How ?!
OH NO, YOU RUINED IT! AND AFTER ALL MY EFFORT TO MAKE THAT THE BIGGEST, HEAVIEST SIGH I COULD MANAGE, TOO!

ギャア Bicker
ST-STOP THAT! GET AWAY FROM HIM!!
HNNGH! THIS BAG... HRRGH... IT ISN'T COMING OFF!
YOU WON'T STOP ME THIS TIME!


LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN.
WHOA.

SLUMP
THUD


D-FRAGMENTS
ディーふらぐ!

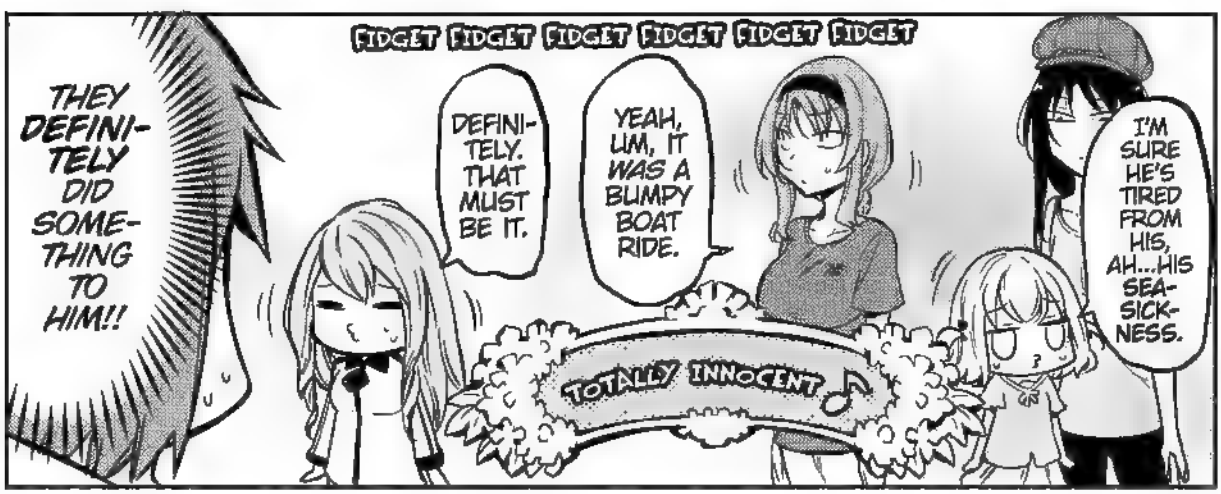

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

WELCOME TO FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND!!
AND THERE'S NO WAY THIS ISLAND IS REALLY NAMED AFTER HIM!!
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF HASHI-MOTO! WHAT DID HE PLAY?!
WHAT THE--?! THIS IS WHAT WE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE FOR?!
TA-DAAA~!

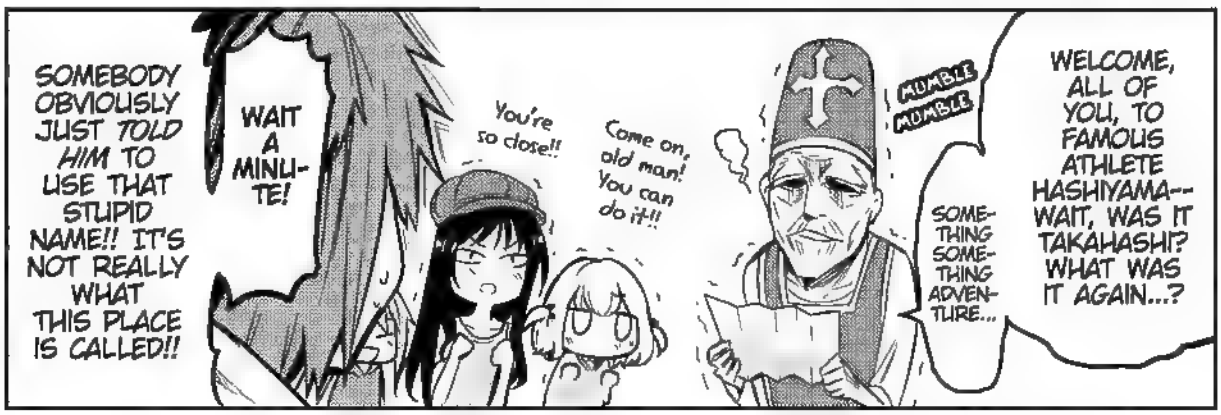
HUH ?!
IS THIS REALLY SOME-THING TO GET THAT EXCITED OVER ?!
YAAAAY!! WE'VE MADE IT TO FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND!! WHOOOO!!!

Chapter 47
Where the Heck Did This Come From?!
AND WHY DID ANIKI HAVE TO PICK NOW OF ALL TIMES TO BE DOWN AND OUT FOR THE COUNT?!
Last * Chapter
MRRRFFF!
MRPH!

LIM, LET'S GIVE KAZAMA-SAN SOME PEACE AND QUIET FOR NOW.
COULD YOU PLEASE JUST WAKE UP ALREADY ?!
Urrrg... Aaagh...
GAH, YOU'RE HEAVY!
ANIKI, LOOK! WE'VE FINALLY MADE IT TO "THAT" PLACE YOU WERE SO CURIOUS ABOUT! SEE?! ANIKI!!


FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET
THEY DEFINITELY DID SOMETHING TO HIM!!
DEFINITELY. THAT MUST BE IT.
YEAH, LIM, IT WAS A BUMPY BOAT RIDE.
I'M SURE HE'S TIRED FROM HIS, AH...HIS SEASICKNESS.
TOTALLY INNOCENT

LOOM...
HEH HEH...
WELCOME TO FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND.
DO-DON
BWUH?! WAIT, DO YOU LIVE HERE?! AND IS THIS PLACE REALLY CALLED BY THAT LONG, STUPID NAME?!


WELCOME, ALL OF YOU, TO FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIYAMA-- WAIT, WAS IT TAKAHASHI? WHAT WAS IT AGAIN...?
MUMBLE MUMBLE
SOME-THING SOME-THING ADVEN-TURE...
You're so close!!
Come on, old man! You can do it!!
WAIT A MINU-TE!
SOMEBODY OBVIOUSLY JUST TOLD HIM TO USE THAT STUPID NAME!! IT'S NOT REALLY WHAT THIS PLACE IS CALLED!!

YES!! HURRY, EVERY-ONE!! LET'S GO AND REGISTER !!
SERIOUSLY... HOW COULD THIS PLACE BE THAT EXCITING?

NOE... CARE-FUL...
DON'T LET 'EM... TRICK YOU...
HUFF
AAARGH!! EVEN ANIKI'S CRYPTIC WARNINGS ARE DRIVING ME NUTS!!

I TOOK THIS JOB THINKING I'D MAKE A COUPLE EXTRA BUCKS THIS WEEKEND, AND WHAT DO I FIND MYSELF MIXED UP IN? THIS.
HOLD ON. IS THAT THE GIRL WHO'S FAMOUS FOR THROW-ING UP?
WHAT ABOUT... YOUR... EXAM STUDIES ...
WAIT! WE KNOW THAT GIRL!
THAT'S MY LINE!
YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW YOU'RE HYPED TO BE HERE, BUT SETTLE DOWN LONG ENOUGH TO SIGN UP, OKAY?
REGISTRAR
TEA

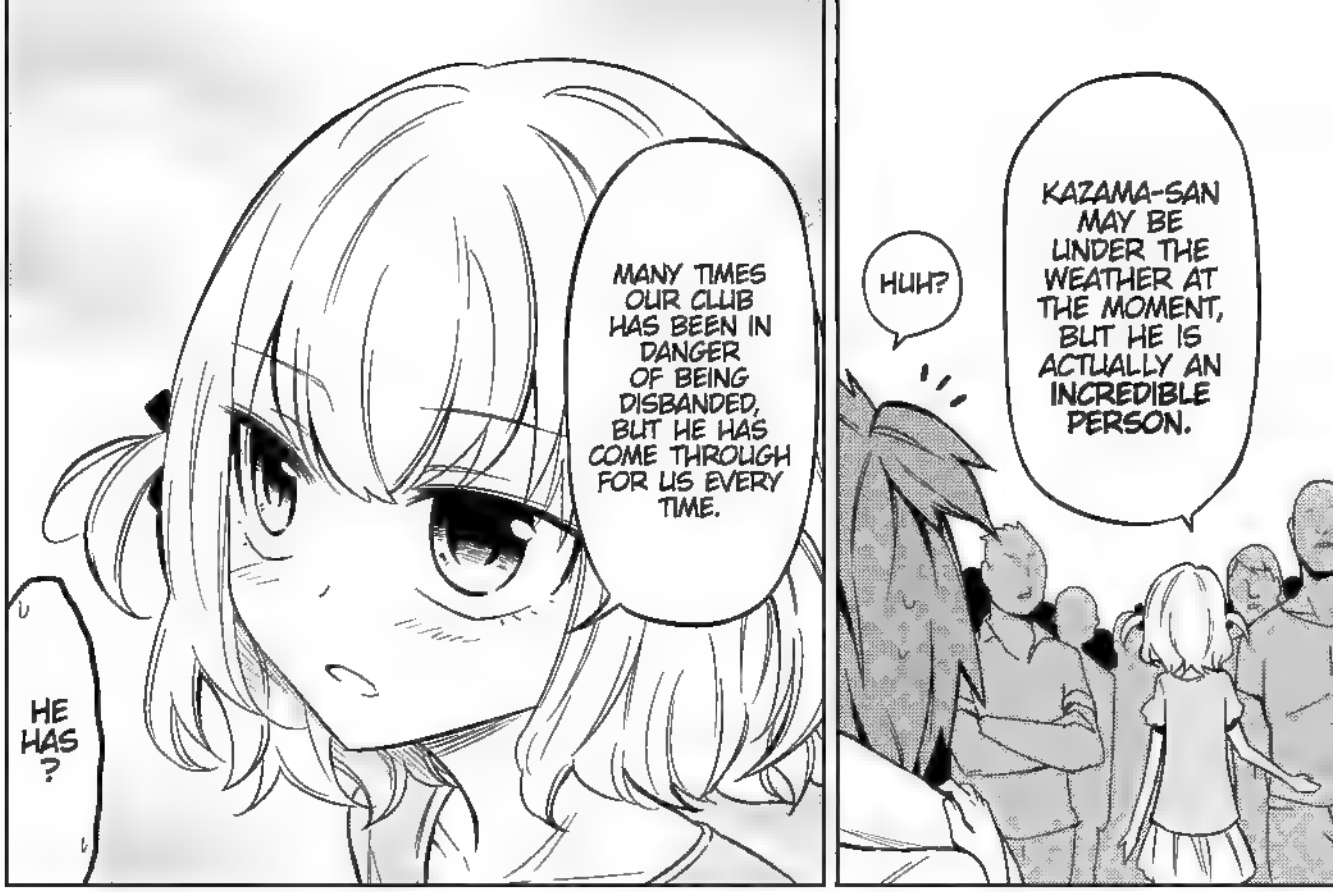
OH HEY! IS THAT YOU, KAZA-MA?
MAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? SEA-SICKNESS? I HEAR YOU! THE WATER 'ROUND HERE IS REALLY CHOPPY!
HUH?
WHY, JUST ON THE WAY OVER HERE I THREW UP FIVE... I MEAN, ONLY THREE TIMES!
TOO MUCH INFOR-MATION! AND THAT ISN'T SOMETHING TO BRAG ABOUT!!
Ha ha!

SEMPAI... NOT SOME-THING... TO BRAG ABOUT...
WHEEZE WHEEZE
IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID, DON'T EVEN BOTHER!
INSTEAD OF MAKING COMEBACKS, TAKE IT EASY AND FOCUS ON GETTING YOUR STRENGTH BACK!!

OH NO! WITH KENJI OUT, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE ALL THE COMEBACKS TO NOE-CHAN!!
NOE-CHAN. GOT IT.
WHY IS EVERYONE STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?!
AND WHERE DID THOSE WEIRDOS COME FROM AND HOW DO THEY KNOW MY NAME?!
AH. SO HER NAME'S NOE-CHAN?
OOH, NICE COMEBACK, NOE-CHAN. WE WERE RIGHT TO LEAVE THIS IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS.
HUH?! NO, SERI-OUSLY! WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS MEAN?!
ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT! WE'VE GOT A LONG LINE HERE, FOLKS, SO HURRY IT UP! SIGN YOUR NAME, SCHOOL, AND AFFINITY, PLEASE.
OOPS! SORRY. WE'LL BE QUICK.
WAIT, "AFFINITY"?! AFFINITY FOR WHAT?!
NAME
AFFINITY
Club Name
Kadaira
Bread-Not-Rice-For
Hitsu
Sock-On-Right-F
Higashi-kawaguchi
Ballpoint-Pen A
Misato
Daily-Special
Nishiura
B-Lunch-Set
Matsudo
Affinity...or INFINITY?!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, EITHER. JUST PUT IN WHATEVER.
HOLY CRAP, THEY REALLY ARE PUTTING DOWN WHAT-EVER!!
MATSUDO... IT'S "AFFINITY," DAMMIT...

DON'T WORRY, NOE-CHAN! WE DON'T HAVE SUCH RIDICULOUS, POORLY-THOUGHT-OUT AFFINITIES LIKE THESE SCOUNDRELS!!
NO!
I AM SHIBASAKI ROKA, AND MY AFFINITY IS FIRE!!
UH, THE FACT YOU THOUGHT YOURS OUT MIGHT MAKE IT WORSE.
I AM KARASU-YAMA CHITOSE, AND MY AFFINITY IS EARTH!!
HUH?! THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT IS GETTING IN ON IT TOO?!
MIZUKAMI SAKURA, WATER AFFINITY!!
AND WHY ARE ALL OF YOU USING THE SAME POSE?!
OHSAWA MINAMI. LIGHT-NING AFFI-NITY.
AND IF WE CAN PICK OUR POSES, I'D LIKE THIS "PIGGYBACK" POSE. THAT WAY I CAN GO TO SLEEP. G'NIGHT.
LEAN
YOU TOO, SENSEI?! AND YOU'RE TOO HEAVY TO PIGGYBACK ON SHIBASAKI-SEMPAI!!

YAMMER
YAMMER
YAMMER
WHOA! WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT WE'D GET A GROUP WITH THE GUTS TO PICK THE FIVE ELEMENTS AS THEIR AFFINITIES!
THEY'VE GOT TO BE REAL CONFI-DENT IN THEM-SELVES.
EVEN THEIR SENSEI IS IN ON IT.
WHAT THE HECK?! WHY ARE THEY SO INTERES-TED IN US NOW?!
AND HOW 'BOUT THE NOE-CHAN OVER THERE, AND THE GUY SHE'S BEEN CARRYING? THEY WITH THAT CREW?
YEAH, I'M ALSO CURIOUS.
OH GOD...
THEY'RE ALL... POSING THE SAME WAY...
ANIKI, YOUR COME-BACKS ARE WAY TOO LATE.
NOW THEY'RE ALL LOOKING AT ME!!
I'D BETTER JUST SCRIBBLE SOMETHING RANDOM AND RUN!
WISH
CALM DOWN, EVERYONE! ALL WILL BE REVEALED. AS I AM THEIR CAPTAIN, ALLOW ME TO ANSWER FOR KAZAMA-SAN AND NOE-CHAN.
HUH?! UH, NO THANKS! YOU REALLY DON'T NEED TO DO THAT!


MANY TIMES OUR CLUB HAS BEEN IN DANGER OF BEING DISBANDED, BUT HE HAS COME THROUGH FOR US EVERY TIME.
HE HAS?
HUH?
KAZAMA-SAN MAY BE UNDER THE WEATHER AT THE MOMENT, BUT HE IS ACTUALLY AN INCREDIBLE PERSON.

WH-WHOA... EVEN THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT AGREES?
THEN THERE WAS THAT TIME WE FOUGHT THE FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL. I GUESS HE WASN'T EXACTLY USELESS THEN, EITHER.

KAZAMA?
HIS COMEBACKS ARE ALWAYS WAKING ME UP.
FINALLY, SOMETHING I ACTUALLY BELIEVE!!
GRIN
OKAY, NOW THINGS ARE STARTING TO SOUND A LITTLE FISHY!
EVER SINCE KAZAMA-SEMPAI JOINED, CLUB ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN A LOT MORE FUN! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR CLASS TO END NOWADAYS!

IN OTHER WORDS...
KA-ZAMA-SAN IS...
WIND AFFINITY!! BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONE TO BLOW A BREATH OF FRESH AIR INTO OUR CLUB!!
OOOOHHH!!
WHRL
YOU JUST PICKED THAT ONE BECAUSE OUR LAST NAME HAS THE CHARACTER FOR "WIND" IN IT!!

UH, NO. I'M NOT ANYTHING FANCY LIKE, UM, "WIND AFFINITY" OR ANY-THING.
MUMBLE
I'M JUST HIS LITTLE SISTER...

SO? DOES THAT GO FOR LITTLE MISS NOE-CHAN OVER THERE, TOO?
WHOMP
AAAHT
DOES SHE HAVE A SPECIAL AFFI-NITY?
HOW DO THEY KNOW MY NAME?

WHAT?! THAT GOT AN EVEN BIGGER REACTION THAN KAZAMA-SAN'S WIND AFFINITY!!
ME TOO!
I'M LITTLE SISTER AFFI-NITY!
CAN WE JUST GET GOING, PLEASE? MY PATIENCE FOR THIS CRAP IS RUNNING LOW.
SHE'S LITTLE SISTER AFFINITY ?!

YOU'RE GETTING EVEN SLOWER! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE FEELING WORSE?!
ANIKI, YOU'RE JUST NOTICING THAT NOW?!
YOU JUST GOT THAT... FROM MY NAME... DIDN'T YOU...?
WIND AFFI-NITY ...?

LET'S GO. WE'RE ALL SIGNED UP.
JUST FORGET ABOUT THOSE IDIOTS, CAPTAIN.
POOR NOE-CHAN. SHE'S HAVING A HARD TIME.

DASH
HUH? WE'RE ALREADY SIGNED UP? WHAT DID YOU PUT DOWN FOR OUR AFFINITIES?
ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE! LET'S GO!
HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE!
UH, WHAT DID SHE WRITE DOWN?!
POINT
COME ON, CAPTAIN.
?
UM, INADA? WHAT DID YOU WRITE DOWN FOR ME?
.....
WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANY-THING?!
!
!!

LA DE DAH DE DAH DE DUM~!
THIS WAY TO THE VENUE
LA LA LA LAAA~!
WHERE'S THE REST OF YOUR CLUB?
WHY ARE YOU STILL FOL-LOW-ING US?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHI-MOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND SOOO MUCH!
ER, SAME HERE.
OH! MY NAME IS TAKAFUDOU HATA. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU ALL!
EVERYONE ELSE WILL BE COMING LATER, I'M SURE. UNTIL THEN, PLEASE LET ME WALK WITH YOU!
DOES EVERY GIRL WITH "TAKA" IN HER NAME HAVE HUGE BOOBS OR SOMETHING?!

I KNEW IT! THEY DID SOMETHING TO HIM!
TO BE HONEST, I AH... I STILL FEEL A LITTLE BAD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
HUH?
I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING A HARD TIME CARRYING KAZAMA-ONIISAN. HERE, LET ME HELP.
TP TP

YOU STAY OUT OF THIS!
ZIP
NO, LET ME! NOE'CHI AND I CAN GIVE HIM DOUBLE-LITTLE-SISTER SUPPORT!
YOU DID SOME-THING TOO, DIDN'T YOU?!
NO, NO! LET ME HELP!

DRAG DRAG DRAG
WAH! IS NOE-CHAN STILL AFRAID OF ME?!
UMM... M-MAYBE I SHOULD HELP. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M ACTUALLY STRONGER THAN I LOOK.
!!
Oh, I believe it!

WWM
WWM
WWM
WWM
HOLY CRAP! SO MUCH PRES-SURE!!
WOW! NOW THIS IS SOME INCRED-IBLE WIND SPEEDS!

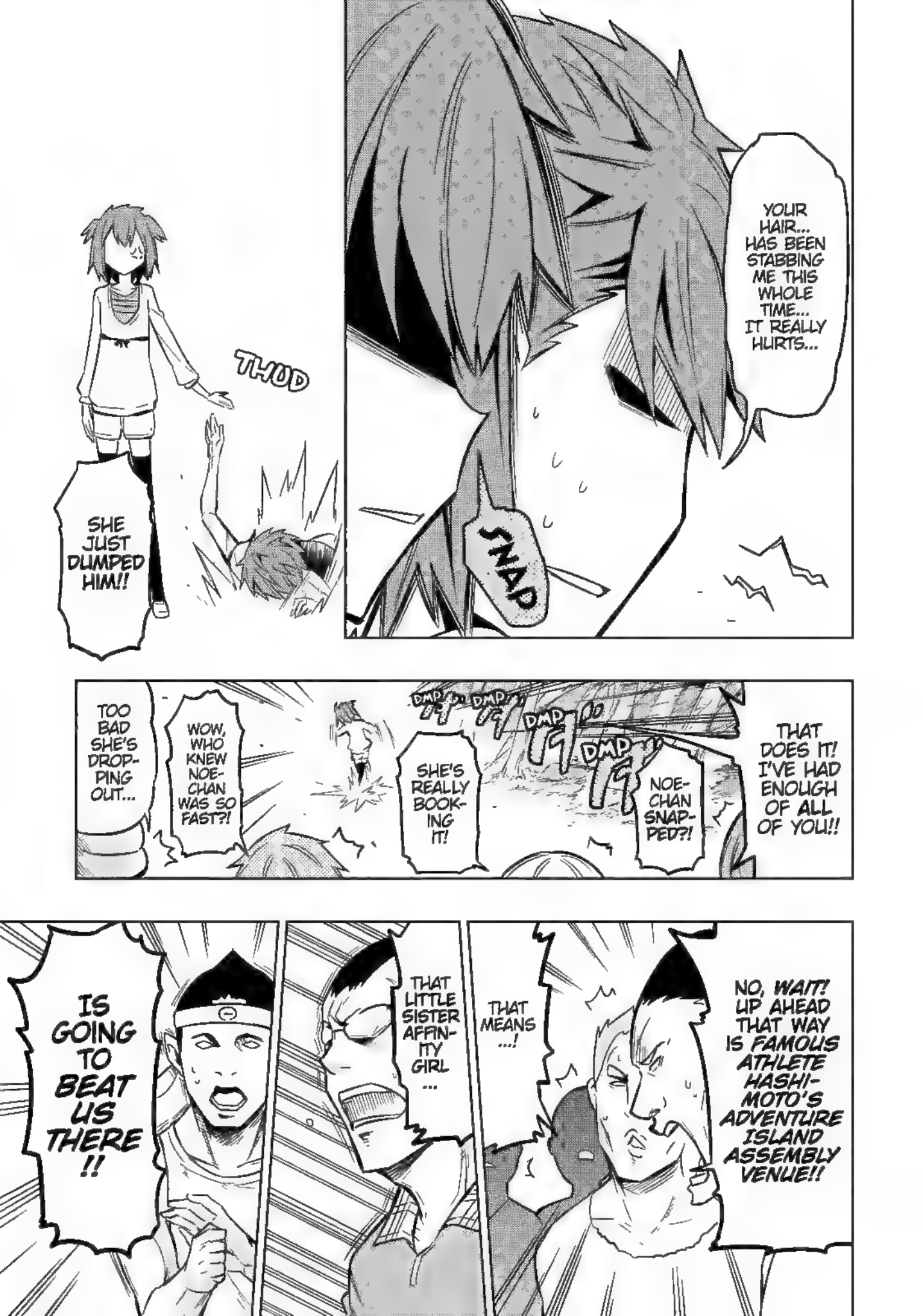
WHRL
LET ME!
DWAH!! WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! AND HOW THE HECK ARE YOU GENERAT-ING THIS MUCH WIND PRESSURE ?!
ME! ME!
NO, ME!
NO, ME!
WHRL
WHRL
WHRL

WHAT?! ANIKI ISN'T EVEN DOING ANYTHING! AT ALL!!
IS THIS THE POWER OF WIND AFFI-NITY?! YIKES!!

ALL OF YOU, SHUT IT!
BROTHER COMPLEX MUCH?
AWW... SISTER-LY LOVE.
HUFF
SHUT UP, ALL OF YOU! I'LL CARRY ANIKI BY MYSELF!!
RRGH...!

N-NOE ...
HUH? WHAT IS IT, ANIKI? HOW YOU FEELING?

DSST
DSST
DSST
DSST
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
YOU TWO ARE REALLY STARTING TO TICK ME OFF! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE, ANYWAY?! GET LOST!
HOLY CRAP! SHE SERIOUSLY DOESN'T WANT TO LET HER BIG BRO GO! THAT'S SOME MAJOR LITTLE SISTER AFFINITY!


YOUR HAIR... HAS BEEN STABBING ME THIS WHOLE TIME... IT REALLY HURTS...
SNAD
THUD
SHE JUST DUMPED HIM!!
THAT DOES IT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF ALL OF YOU!!
NOE-CHAN SNAPPED?!
DMP
DMP
DMP
SHE'S REALLY BOOKING IT!
WOW, WHO KNEW NOE-CHAN WAS SO FAST?!
TOO BAD SHE'S DROPPING OUT...
NO, WAIT! UP AHEAD THAT WAY IS FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND ASSEMBLY VENUE!!
THAT MEANS ...!
THAT LITTLE SISTER AFFINITY GIRL ...
IS GOING TO BEAT US THERE !!

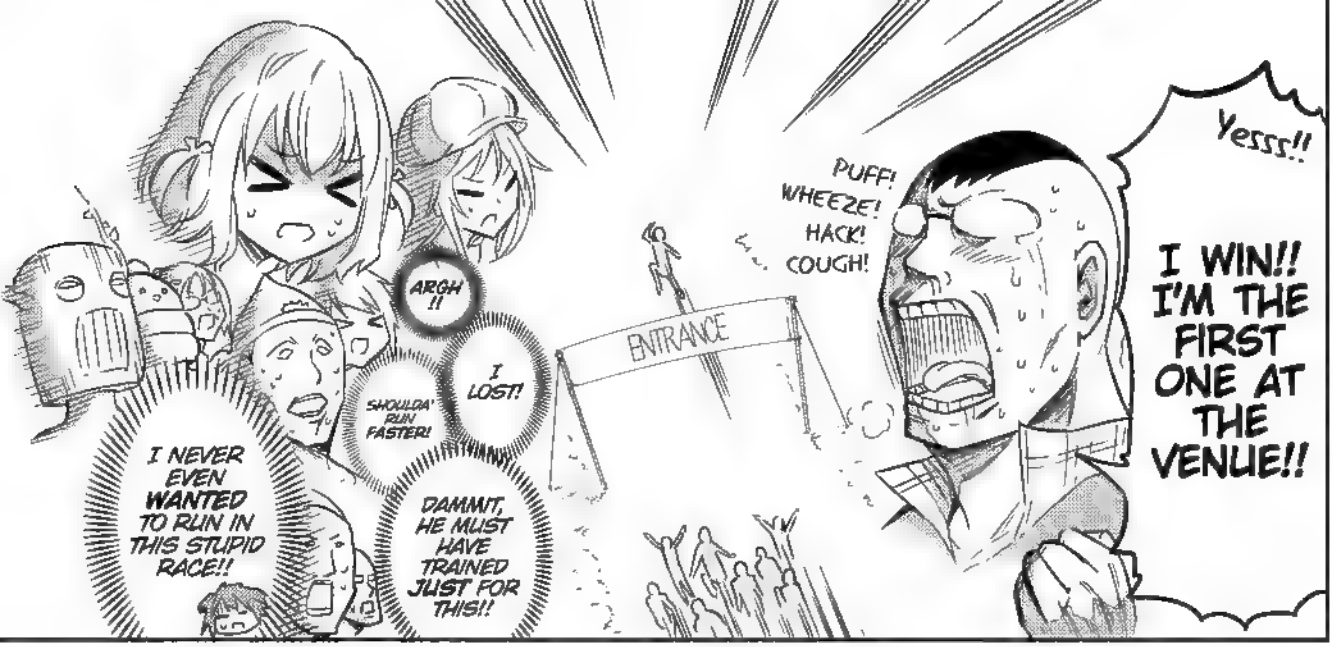
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
BWAH?!
NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT!!

AAAA!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?!

BY THE WAY, YOU'RE REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE ICE AFFINITY, RIGHT?!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW?!

BOY, THIS REMINDS ME OF THAT TIME WE RAN TOGETHER AT THE SHRINE RACE...
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR REMINI-SCING!

HEE HEE! WE'RE RACING, NOE'CHI! SEE, EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE FIRST TO THE VENUE.
HUH?!


Yesss!!
I WIN!! I'M THE FIRST ONE AT THE VENUE!!
PUFF! WHEEZE! HACK! COUGH!
ENTRANCE
ARGH !!
I LOST!
SHOULDA' RUN FASTER!
I NEVER EVEN WANTED TO RUN IN THIS STUPID RACE!!
DAMMIT, HE MUST HAVE TRAINED JUST FOR THIS!!

!!
OH JEEZ!
HUFF
PANT
WHEEZE
NOW WHAT?
WHAT HAP-PENED HERE?!
JOLT
HUH ?!
THE HECK ?!

DUN-DUUUN
FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND
WELCOME
WELCOME
OH MY GOSH, WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THESE PEOPLE?!
WHAAAT?! THERE WERE ALREADY PEOPLE HERE?!
How could that happen...?
Urrrgh...
Dammit...
THAT'S WHAT'S BOTHER-ING YOU?!

MWA HA HA!
HUH?! THAT'S THE MAYOR?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
OH NO!! AFTER ALL THE EFFORT THE MAYOR WENT TO GET US THIS VENUE SO WE COULD BRING TOURISM BACK TO THIS ISLAND...! DAMMIT!!
MAYOR!
MR. MAYOR!!
NGH... I'M SORRY, EVERYONE. I...KNOW YOU WERE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUN OF FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND...
BUT I COULDN'T PROTECT IT.

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
WHERE THE HECK DID THEY COME FROM?!
FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND NOW BELONGS TO US!!

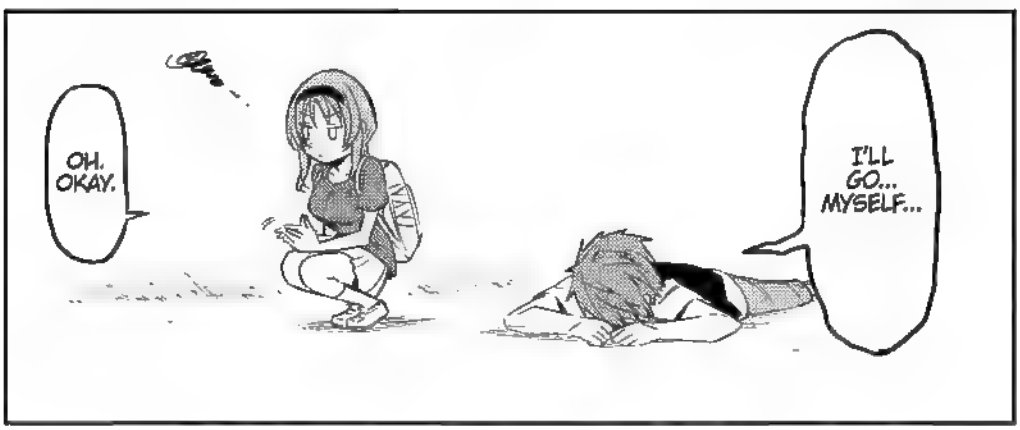
HEH! HASHI-MOTO-SAN, YOU SAY?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HASHI-MOTO-SAN?!
YEAH! WHERE IS HE?!

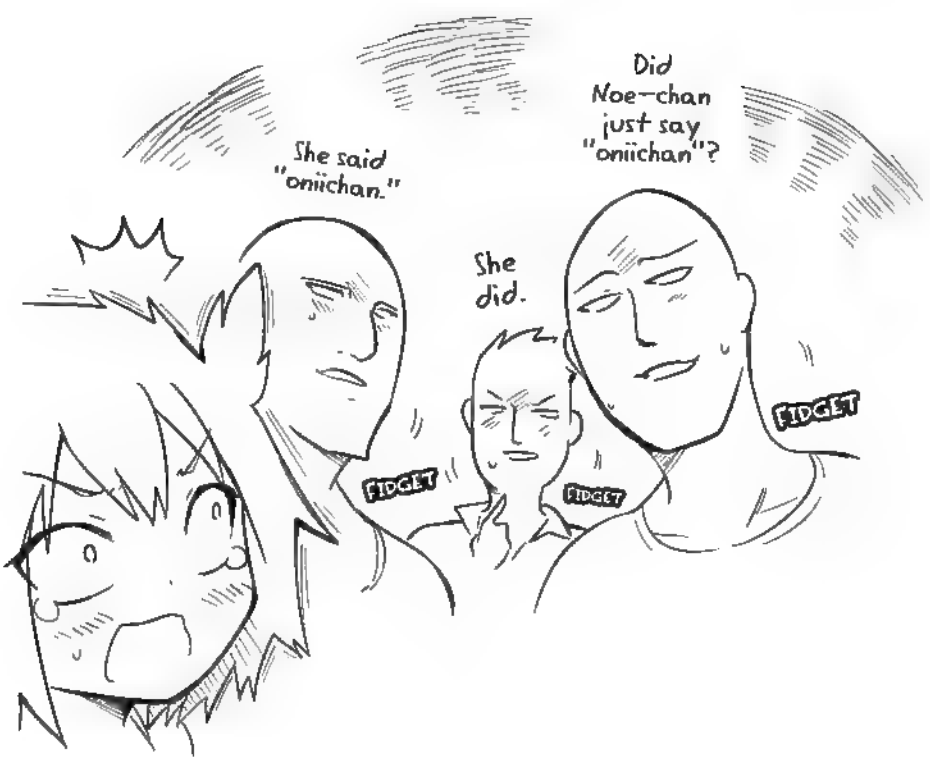
WHO ARE YOU WEIRDOS AND WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?!
I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU TWO!!

NOW THAT IS ONE TACKY MEDAL!
OH CRAP !!
LOOK! IT'S HASHIMOTO-SAN'S HASHIMOTO MEDAL!
THERE IS ONLY ONE HASHIMOTO MEDAL IN THE WHOLE WORLD! THAT MEANS THE REAL HASHIMOTO-SAN MUST BE IN THAT BARREL!
H-HASHI-MOTO-SAN?!
RATL
RATL
RATL
WE HAVE HIM, OF COURSE. HE'S RIGHT HERE.
WAIT, THIS "FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHI-MOTO GUY" REALLY EXISTS?!
BUT THIS IS OBVIOUSLY JUST SOMETHING PUT TOGETHER BY THE EVENT ORGANI-ZERS.
UH, GUYS? I DON'T WANT TO BURST ANYONE'S BUBBLE...
Ahem...
Umm...
Uh...
YOU GUYS DON'T HONESTLY BELIEVE ANY OF THIS IS REAL, RIGHT? GUYS? GUYS?

WAAAAAAHHH!
わあああん
I JUST CAN'T DO IT ANY-MORE !!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
I CAN'T DO IT!!

Oniichan!!
Help!!
Save me!!
Onichaaaan!!
I COULD, UM, GIVE YOU A PIGGY BACK RIDE THERE.
SOUNDS LIKE NOE-CHAN IS CALLING OUT FOR YOU...
Oniichaaan!


OH. OKAY.
I'LL GO... MYSELF...


She said "oniichan."
She did.
Did Noe-chan just say "oniichan"?
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET

D-FRAGMENTS

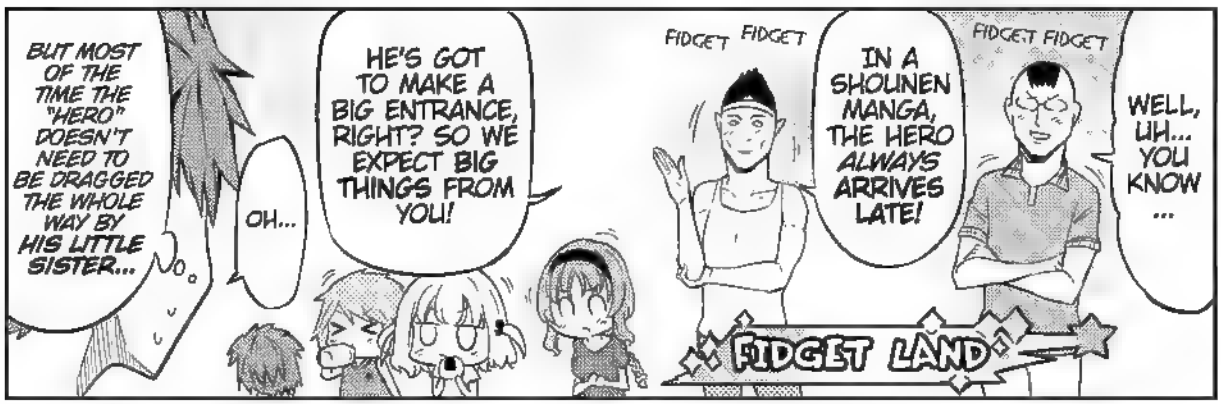
LAST TIME, ON FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND...
AFTER THEIR LONG AND TURBULENT FERRY RIDE, EVERYONE FINALLY ARRIVED AT "THAT" DESTINATION THEY HAD SO BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO... FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND." (NOT THE ISLAND'S ACTUAL NAME.)
HOWEVER A MYSTERIOUS GROUP OF SINISTER STRANGERS HAVE KIDNAPPED HASHIMOTO-SAN. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR INTREPID ADVENTURERS?!
AH, OKAY. THANKS FOR THE RECAP.

WHO THE HELL ARE THESE PEOPLE ?!
YAY! KAZAMA-SAN IS UP AND ABOUT AGAIN!!

BUT "WHO THE HELL" IS AN AWFULLY BLAND COMEBACK TO START OUT WITH.
TRUE, TRUE. HE MAY NOT BE AT 100% YET.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S BLAND?! NO ONE ASKED YOU!!
ARE YOU THIRSTY AT ALL?
OR HUNGRY ?
HUH? UH, YEAH, A LITTLE. SO?
THEN YOU'RE JUST FINE!
Here, have a nice ball.
Have some water.
THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN !!

AND WHAT THE HECK IS UP WITH THESE RANDOM EXPECTATIONS FROM RANDOM GUYS I'VE NEVER MET BEFORE?!
YEAH! YOU BETTER NOT LET US DOWN!
WE MADE SURE TO KEEP YOUR SPOT WARM AND EVERYTHING!
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, DUDE!
HEH. IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU WERE BACK TO NORMAL, KAZAMA.

Chapter 48
The Worst Scary Bad Thing in My Life


BUT MOST OF THE TIME THE "HERO" DOESN'T NEED TO BE DRAGGED THE WHOLE WAY BY HIS LITTLE SISTER...
OH...
HE'S GOT TO MAKE A BIG ENTRANCE, RIGHT? SO WE EXPECT BIG THINGS FROM YOU!
FIDGET FIDGET
IN A SHOUNEN MANGA, THE HERO ALWAYS ARRIVES LATE!
FIDGET FIDGET
WELL, UH... YOU KNOW ...
FIDGET LAND

OKAY, OKAY. SO IF THIS HASHIMOTO GUY REALLY IS TAKEN HOSTAGE, AND IT'S NOT JUST SOME PRE-PLANNED EVENT...
THEN...
PLEASE, KAZAMA!!
WIND AFFINITY!!
KAZAMA!!
AAAAH!
RIGHT, DON'T EVER CALL ME THAT AGAIN!!
WHY ARE ALL OF YOU PUTTING THIS ON ME?!
WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT PILE ANY MORE PRESSURE ON ME?!
WE'RE ALL COUNTING ON YOU, KAZAMA-SAN!

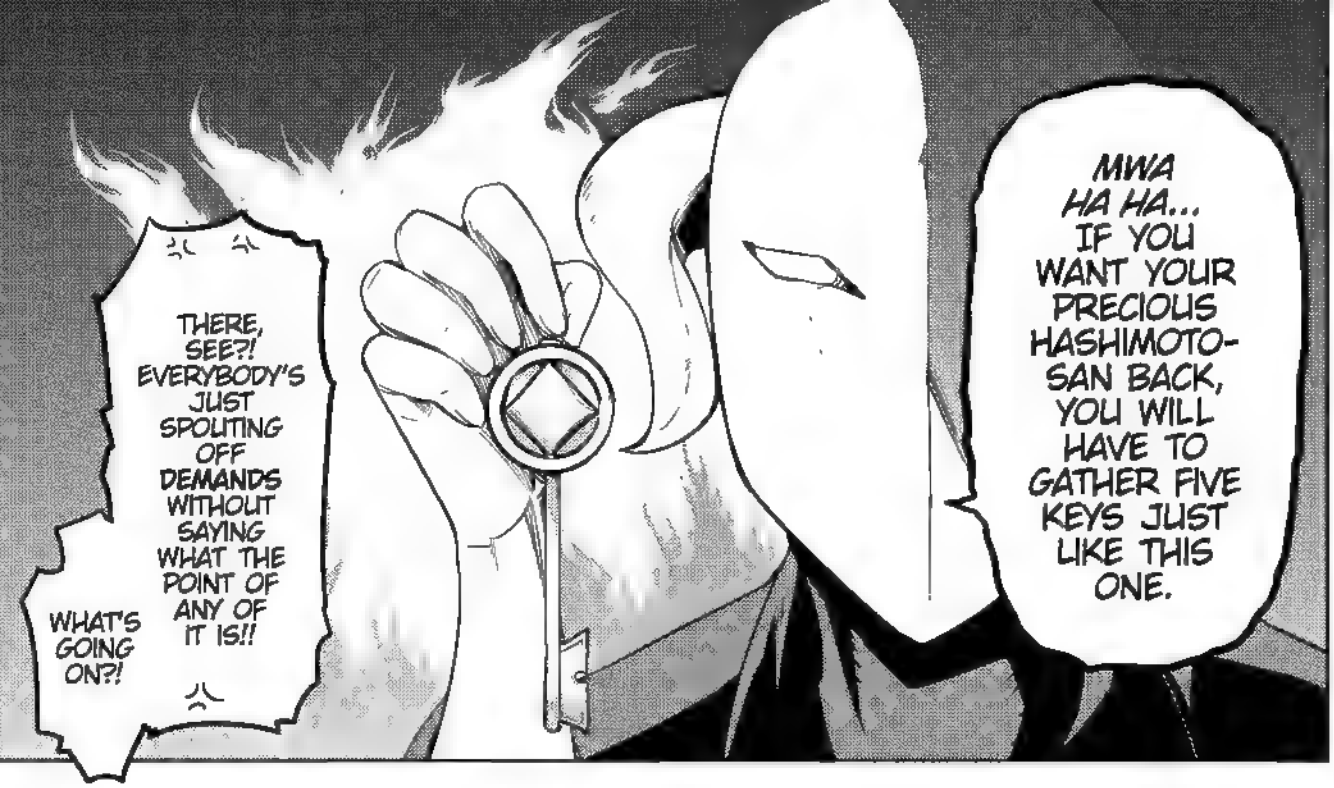
CALL THE COPS?
YOU COULD, Y'KNOW ...

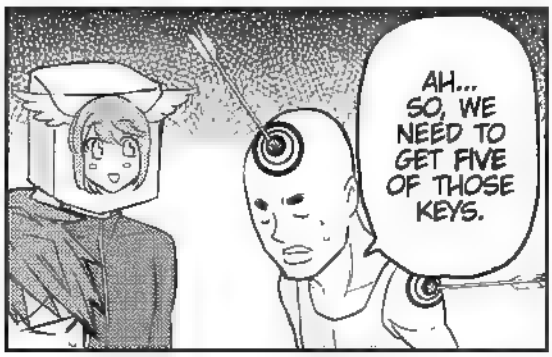
LIKE I CARE WHAT A PACK OF LOONS LIKE YOU THINK OF ME!!
GYAAA!
GYAAA!
YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!
HOW DARE A DELINQUENT LIKE YOU SUGGEST WE CALL THE POLICE?
DAMMIT KAZAMA! WE AREN'T LOOKING FOR LOGIC HERE!!
You're kidding!!
No way!
IF THIS EVENT FAILS, THE ISLAND FAILS WITH IT!!
Whaaat ?!
MAN, KAZAMA! I TRUST-ED YOU! WHAT A LET DOWN!!

"PEACE-FULLY"? WHAT, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO CHALLENGE THEM TO A GAME?!
PEACE-FULLY, TOO!!
LEAVE THIS TO US! WE'LL GET HASHIMOTO-SAN BACK, SAFE AND SOUND!
HEH! SO KAZAMA THE WIND ELEMENTAL IS ACTUALLY A BIG WUSS.
?!

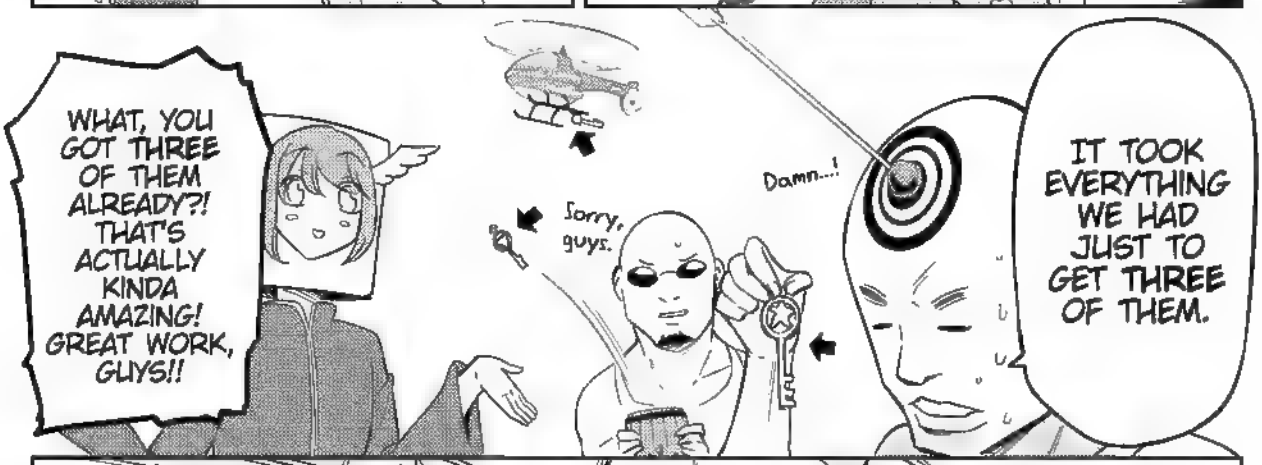
TSK, TSK. I FIGURED THAT AT FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND ...
SKCH
WE MIGHT ACTUALLY FIND A WORTHY OPPONENT. I GUESS WE WERE WRONG.
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TWENTY MINUTES LATER.
SORRY, GUYS. IT DIDN'T WORK.
WHAT THE HECK?! YOU ACTED SO COCKY AND THEN YOU LOST?!

WAIT... HASHIMOTO-SAN?! HE'S A REAL GUY?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
HEY, YOU! WHAT IS THE BIG IDEA, TAKING HASHIMOTO-SAN HOSTAGE?!
AH, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?
REALLY?
"ANOTHER"?
WHAT, THAT'S ONE OF THE KIDNAPPERS?! HOLY CRAP, THERE'S ANOTHER PACK OF WEIRDOS ON THIS ISLAND?!
LOOK! IT'S ONE OF THE SCOUNDRELS FROM THE MYSTERY GANG THAT KIDNAPPED HASHIMOTO-SAN!


MWA HA HA... IF YOU WANT YOUR PRECIOUS HASHIMOTO-SAN BACK, YOU WILL HAVE TO GATHER FIVE KEYS JUST LIKE THIS ONE.
THERE, SEE?! EVERYBODY'S JUST SPOUTING OFF DEMANDS WITHOUT SAYING WHAT THE POINT OF ANY OF IT IS!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!


AH... SO, WE NEED TO GET FIVE OF THOSE KEYS.

URK!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO ON AN ADVENTURE TO FIND THOSE KEYS!
HOLD ON! YOU'RE JUST GOING TO PLAY ALONG WITH IT?!


IT TOOK EVERYTHING WE HAD JUST TO GET THREE OF THEM.
Damn...!
Sorry, guys.
WHAT, YOU GOT THREE OF THEM ALREADY?! THAT'S ACTUALLY KINDA AMAZING! GREAT WORK, GUYS!!

WHAT?! HODO-KUBO! SUNA-GAWA! OH-TSUKA!
THEY DEFEAT-ED YOU AL-READY ?!!
Impossible!!
WHOA! IT LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT WRAP THIS UP FASTER THAN I THOUGHT!

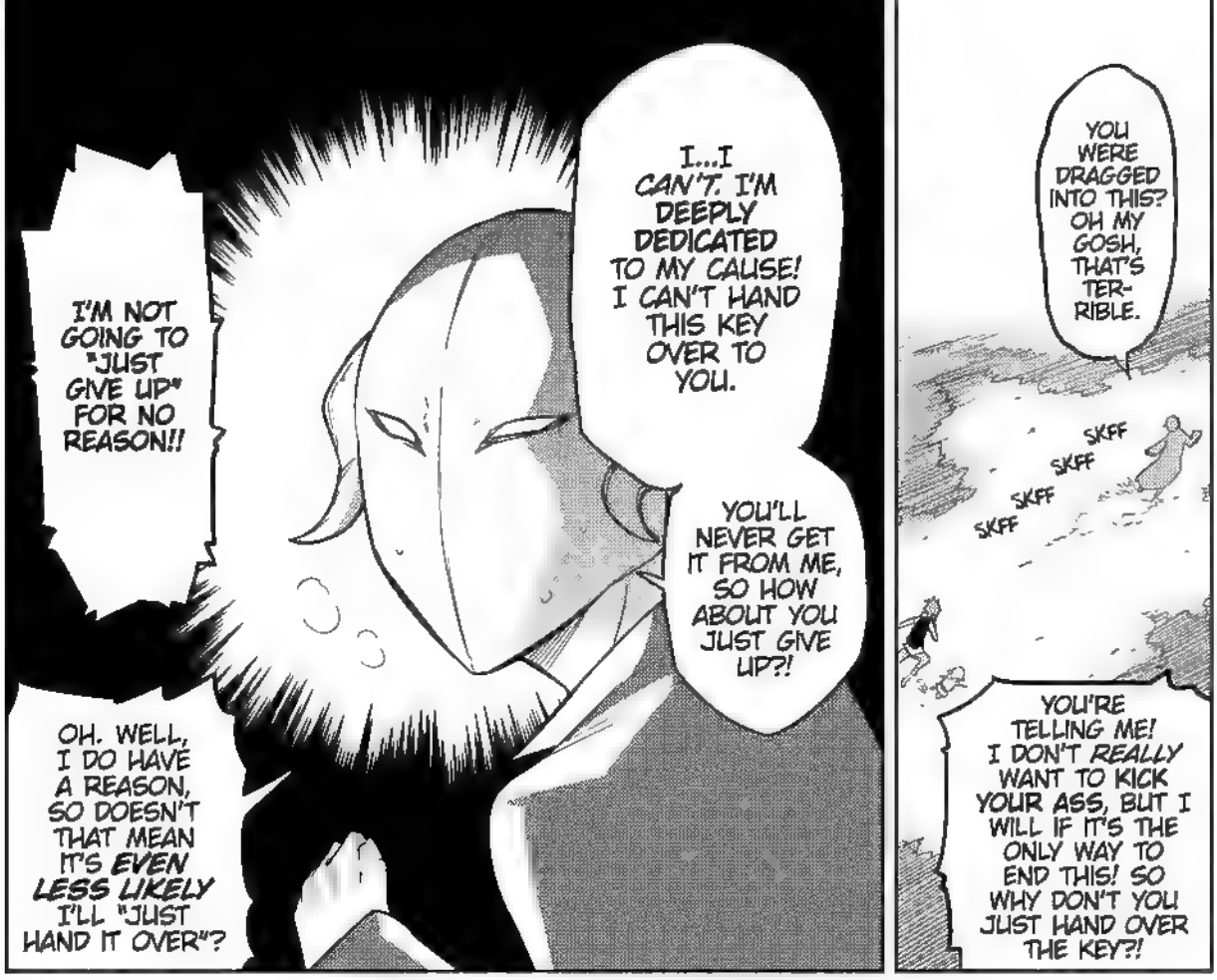
FIDGET FIDGET
UM, BUT I'M NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE YOU THE KEY UNLESS YOU BEAT ME IN A GAME, AND I HAVEN'T BROUGHT ANYTHING...
EH?
SMIRK
THAT MEANS IF I GO SWIPE THE KEY THAT FREAK IS HOLDING, THIS STUPID THING WILL BE ALMOST OVER!
OH, BOY. KAZAMA-SAN IS GETTING INTO IT NOW THAT HE KNOWS HE CAN WRAP THIS UP QUICKLY.

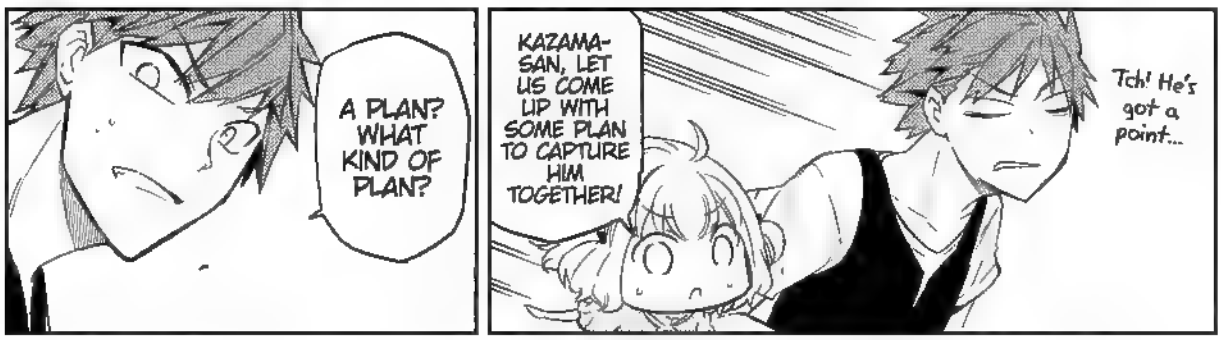
HUH?
I'LL PICK ONE THEN.
OH, OKAY.

Eeeek!!
DASH
HEY! I DIDN'T SAY "GO" YET!!
THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE FOR YOU TO RUN UP AND NAB THE KEY!!
KRIK
HOW 'BOUT "TAG"?

WHOOOSH
LET'S GET THAT HORNED FREAK !!
SKFF
SKFF
SKFF
I-I'M NOT READY YET! AT LEAST GIVE ME A HEAD START!
WHOA, WAIT! WAIT !!
うおおおおお
RRAAAAAH!!
DMD
DMD
DMD
DMD

LIFE NEVER GIVES YOU A HEAD START! DEAL WITH IT!!!
I GOT DRAGGED OUT TO THIS STUPID ISLAND AND WRAPPED UP IN THIS INSANE MESS WITHOUT ANYBODY EXPLAINING A DAMN THING!
YOU WANT "A HEAD START" ?


I'M NOT GOING TO "JUST GIVE UP" FOR NO REASON!!
I...I CAN'T. I'M DEEPLY DEDICATED TO MY CAUSE! I CAN'T HAND THIS KEY OVER TO YOU.
YOU'LL NEVER GET IT FROM ME, SO HOW ABOUT YOU JUST GIVE UP?!
OH. WELL, I DO HAVE A REASON, SO DOESN'T THAT MEAN IT'S EVEN LESS LIKELY I'LL "JUST HAND IT OVER"?
YOU WERE DRAGGED INTO THIS? OH MY GOSH, THAT'S TERRIBLE.
SKFF
SKFF
SKFF
SKFF
YOU'RE TELLING ME! I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KICK YOUR ASS, BUT I WILL IF IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO END THIS! SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST HAND OVER THE KEY?!


A PLAN? WHAT KIND OF PLAN?
KAZAMA-SAN, LET US COME UP WITH SOME PLAN TO CAPTURE HIM TOGETHER!
Tch! He's got a point...

WITH OUR DEEP BOND OF FRIEND-SHIP, I'M SURE WE'LL COME UP WITH SOME-THING!
BUT IT IS TWO VERSUS ONE. WE HAVE THE ADVAN-TAGE!
HM? WELL, I HAVEN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING QUITE YET.

YOU'RE NEXT TO HIM!! QUIT YAMMERING AND CATCH THE GUY YOURSELF!!
What is wrong with you?!
YES! DO IT NOW! DON'T WAIT FOR ME!!
ナナナーン NAAAB
OH, DARN IT!!
OH NO! WHEN DID I GET IN LEAPING RANGE ?!
YOU SURE LOOK HAPPY ABOUT IT!!
OH MY! I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS SO LIGHT!
I'LL JUST SHAKE YOU OFF!!
BUT WAIT, YOU WEIGH NEXT TO NOTHING!

WHAAAA ...?!
WHOOSH
Grab!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SLAAAM!
SBLOOOSH...

OH GOSH, OH GOSH, OH GOSH!
OH MY GOOD-NESS!
AAIIII
CRAP!! THIS IS BAD! REALLY BAD!!
LIKE, REALLY SCARY BAD!!
IN FACT, THIS IS THE WORST SCARY BAD THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME!!
THE WORST SCARY BAD THING IN YOUR LIFE?! THAT IS SCARY BAD!!
EEEE
IF I KNEW HOW THINGS WOULD TURN OUT, I REALLY WOULD HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU THE KEY!!
WHAT?! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR "DEEP DEDI-CATION," HUH?!

HEY, I KNOW! YOU STILL HAVE YOUR BAG, RIGHT?!
YOU CAN THROW IT, RIGHT?! SO HOW ABOUT YOU THROW IT AND HOOK IT ON A BRANCH OR SOMETHING!!
ZWIP
HUH? OH! YOU MEAN MY SPECIAL ROLLING CATCHER MOVE?
I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT WHAT IT'S CALLED, JUST DO IT!!

※ See Volume 6, Chapter 43

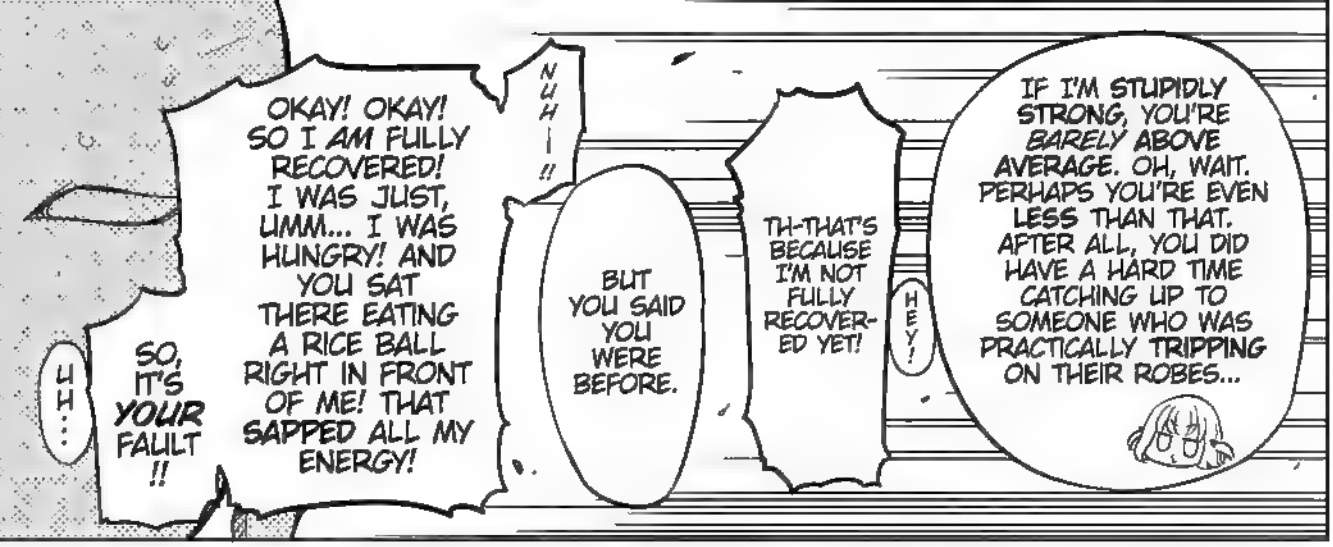
ER, AFTER I USED MY PRECIOUS BAG ON THE BOAT IT, AH, GOT CAUGHT BY THE WIND...
MUMBL MUMBL
SO, YOU WASTED IT ON ME?!
HOW COULD YOU USE UP THE LAST OF YOUR BAGS IN THE ISLAND ARC BEFORE WE EVEN GOT TO THE ISLAND?!
WITH-OUT YOUR BAGS, YOU'RE JUST ...

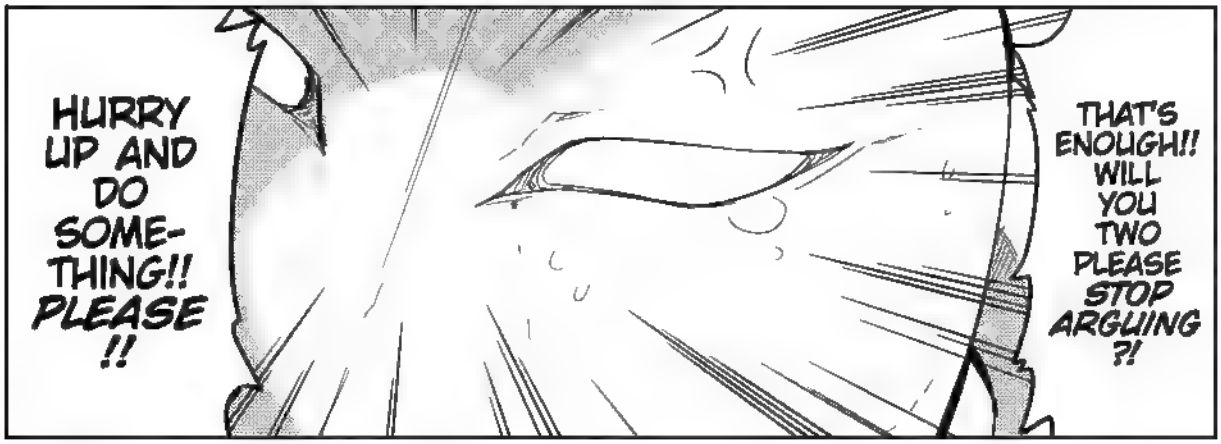
YOU'RE JUST A SHORT, STUPIDLY STRONG FREAK!!
"A SHORT, STUPIDLY STRONG FREAK"...?!

NO, THAT'S A GOOD THING! I WISH I WERE STUPIDLY-STRONG!!
NOW WOULD YOU PLEASE HURRY UP AND DO SOMETHING?! CLIMB!!

I SEE. SO, I'M "STUPIDLY STRONG," HMM?
UMM...
ARE YOU SURE I DON'T JUST SEEM THAT WAY IN COMPARISON TO YOU, KAZAMA-SAN?
WHAT?!

HEY, NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE CUTELY POUTING!
WHY ARE YOU POUTING AT ME ANYWAY?! IS IT BECAUSE I CALLED YOU A FREAK?!
MURRR!

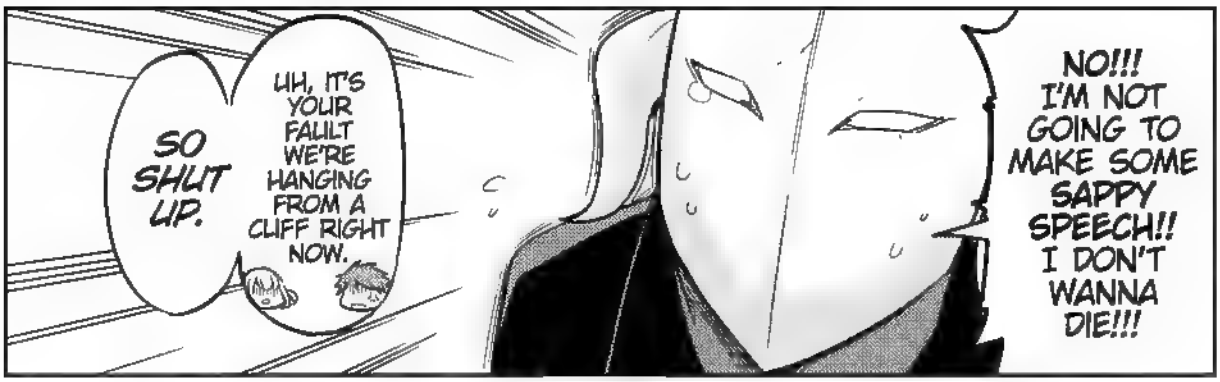

IF I'M STUPIDLY STRONG, YOU'RE BARELY ABOVE AVERAGE. OH, WAIT. PERHAPS YOU'RE EVEN LESS THAN THAT. AFTER ALL, YOU DID HAVE A HARD TIME CATCHING UP TO SOMEONE WHO WAS PRACTICALLY TRIPPING ON THEIR ROBES...
HEY!
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE I'M NOT FULLY RECOVERED YET!
NUH!!
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE BEFORE.
OKAY! OKAY! SO I AM FULLY RECOVERED! I WAS JUST, UMM... I WAS HUNGRY! AND YOU SAT THERE EATING A RICE BALL RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME! THAT SAPPED ALL MY ENERGY!
UH...
SO, IT'S YOUR FAULT!!

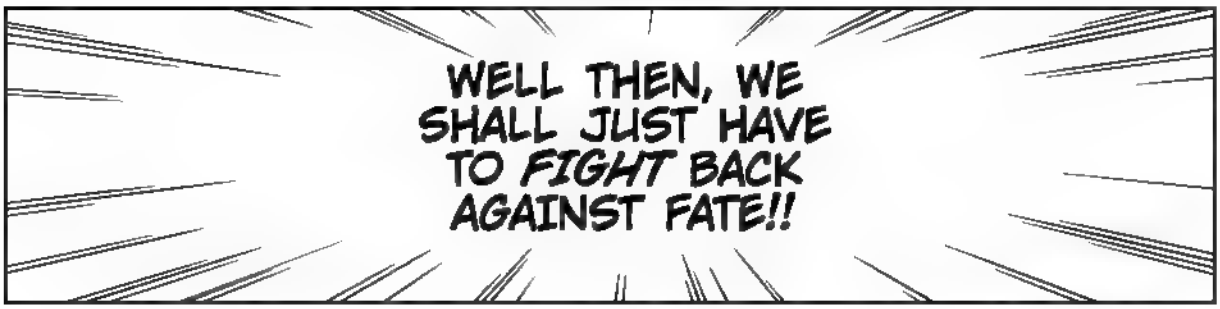

THAT'S ENOUGH!! WILL YOU TWO PLEASE STOP ARGUING?!
HURRY UP AND DO SOME-THING!! PLEASE!!

HEY, YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'S IN TROUBLE HERE.
WE'D LOVE TO CLIMB OUT OF THIS MESS IF WE COULD.

BUT THIS VINE IS BARELY HOLDING AS IS. IT'LL PROBABLY SNAP IF WE PULL ON IT.
KRIK
KREAK
SO INSTEAD YOU SIMPLY DANGLE HERE ARGUING WITH EACH OTHER?!

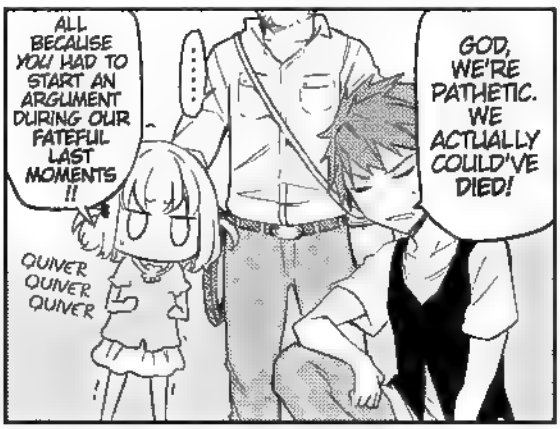
UH-OH... WHY ARE YOU TWO ACTING SO SENTI-MENTAL ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HAH! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT. I NEVER GOT INTO TROUBLE LIKE THIS BEFORE I MET YOU. BUT I'M ALSO KIND OF GLAD WE MET.
UM, IS THAT REALLY IMPORT-ANT RIGHT NOW?
BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE THAT TYPE OF PERSON. OTHERWISE WE MIGHT NOT HAVE MET.
GOODNESS, KAZAMA-SAN. YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING INTO THESE STRANGE PREDICA-MENTS!

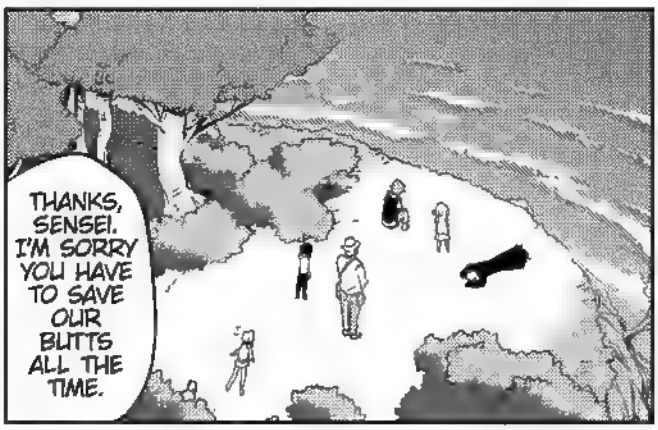

NO!!! I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE SOME SAPPY SPEECH!! I DON'T WANNA DIE!!!
UH, IT'S YOUR FAULT WE'RE HANGING FROM A CLIFF RIGHT NOW.
SO SHUT UP.


WELL THEN, WE SHALL JUST HAVE TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST FATE!!

!!!
A WHIP ?!
CRACK
THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN THAT CAN HANDLE A WHIP LIKE THAT!
BUT IT CAN'T BE...!!

SEAN CONNERY-SENSEI IS HERE TO RESCUE US!!
KAZAMA, MY DEAR BOY, YOU REALLY DO HAVE A KNACK FOR GETTING INTO TROUBLE!
TA-DAAAAH!

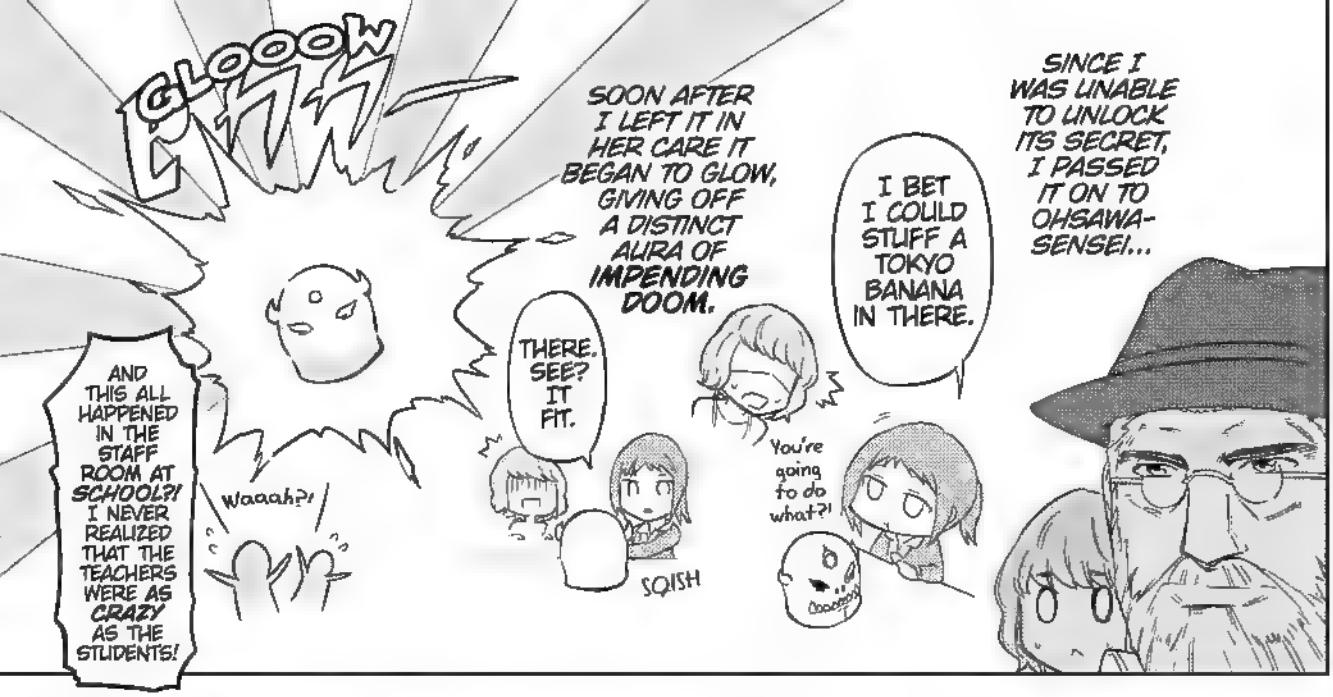

ALL BECAUSE YOU HAD TO START AN ARGUMENT DURING OUR FATEFUL LAST MOMENTS !!
QUIVER QUIVER QUIVER
GOD, WE'RE PATHETIC. WE ACTUALLY COULD'VE DIED!


THANKS, SENSEI. I'M SORRY YOU HAVE TO SAVE OUR BUTTS ALL THE TIME.

SEAN CONNERY-SENSEI...
!
ACTUALLY, IT WAS YOUR BICKERING THAT HELPED ME TO FIND YOU IN TIME. I COULD HEAR YOU CLEAR THROUGH THE FOREST!

IT PROBABLY NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO YOU, AM I CORRECT?
YET, TO THE VERY END, YOU VALIANTLY HELD ON, REFUSING TO KILL ANOTHER SO YOU MAY LIVE.
LIGHTEN THE LOAD ON THE VINE BY SACRI-FICING SOME-ONE.
NOT ONLY THAT, IN YOUR SITUATION THERE WAS ONE THING YOU COULD HAVE DONE...

I AM VERY PROUD OF THE BOTH OF YOU.
THANK YOU, SIR!
HMM. I SUPPOSE I CAN TELL YOU, KAZAMA.
You have Funabori and the Home Ec. teacher with you, too.
ANYWAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, SENSEI?
GLEEEAAAM
WHOA! WAIT, THAT THING TOLD YOU TO COME HERE?!
WE CAME TO THIS ISLAND AT THE GUIDANCE OF THIS MYSTICAL ITEM, THE CRYSTAL SKULL.
Currently, napping somewhere on the island.
YES. THE ARTIFACT WAS IN THE CARE OF OHSAWA-SENSEI.
HUH?! WHAT WAS THAT SLACKER DOING WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!


GLOOOW
SOON AFTER I LEFT IT IN HER CARE IT BEGAN TO GLOW, GIVING OFF A DISTINCT AURA OF IMPENDING DOOM.
I BET I COULD STUFF A TOKYO BANANA IN THERE.
SINCE I WAS UNABLE TO UNLOCK ITS SECRET, I PASSED IT ON TO OHSAWA-SENSEI...
THERE. SEE? IT FIT.
You're going to do what?!
SQUISH
Waaah?!
AND THIS ALL HAPPENED IN THE STAFF ROOM AT SCHOOL?! I NEVER REALIZED THAT THE TEACHERS WERE AS CRAZY AS THE STUDENTS!

THAT'S A BIG SHARE FOR SOMEBODY WHO CONTRIBUTED DIDDLY-SQUAT!!
I GET 60% OF ANY TREASURE YOU FIND, THOUGH.
LOOKS LIKE THIS THING IS ALL BACK TOGETHER AGAIN SO, UH, HERE. YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK.
MUNCH MUNCH

HERE! PUT THIS IN THE RIGHT EYE! QUICKLY!!
BUT LUCKILY NISHINAGA-SENSEI JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE THE ARTIFACT'S MISSING RIGHT EYE ON HAND, AND THE DANGER WAS AVERTED.

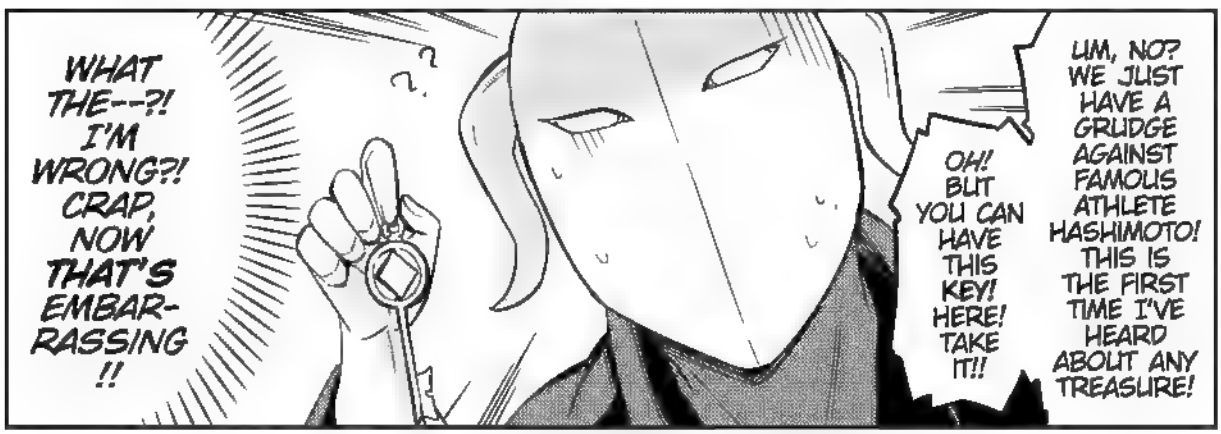
WAIT A SECOND.
HUH?
UM...
AND THUS, I CAME TO THIS ISLAND.

STILL, THINGS ARE STARTING TO MAKE SENSE...

SEN-SEI ?!
MMRL
YEAH. WHAT'S THE DEAL, NISHI-NAGA-SENSEI?
I WAS TOLD THAT THIS WAS A COOKING CLUB FIELD TRIP SO WE COULD PRACTICE GATHERING NATURAL INGREDIENTS.

I SEE! HAVING A HUGE CROWD OF PEOPLE DESCEND ON THE ISLAND WOULD JUST COMPLICATE THINGS...
SO, YOU TRIED TO SCARE US OFF!
YOU WEIRDOS KIDNAPPED HASHIMOTO-SAN AS A DISTRACTION SO YOU COULD NAB THE TREASURE FOR YOURSELVES, RIGHT?
!!
I BELIEVE YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING, MY BOY.
Oh no!

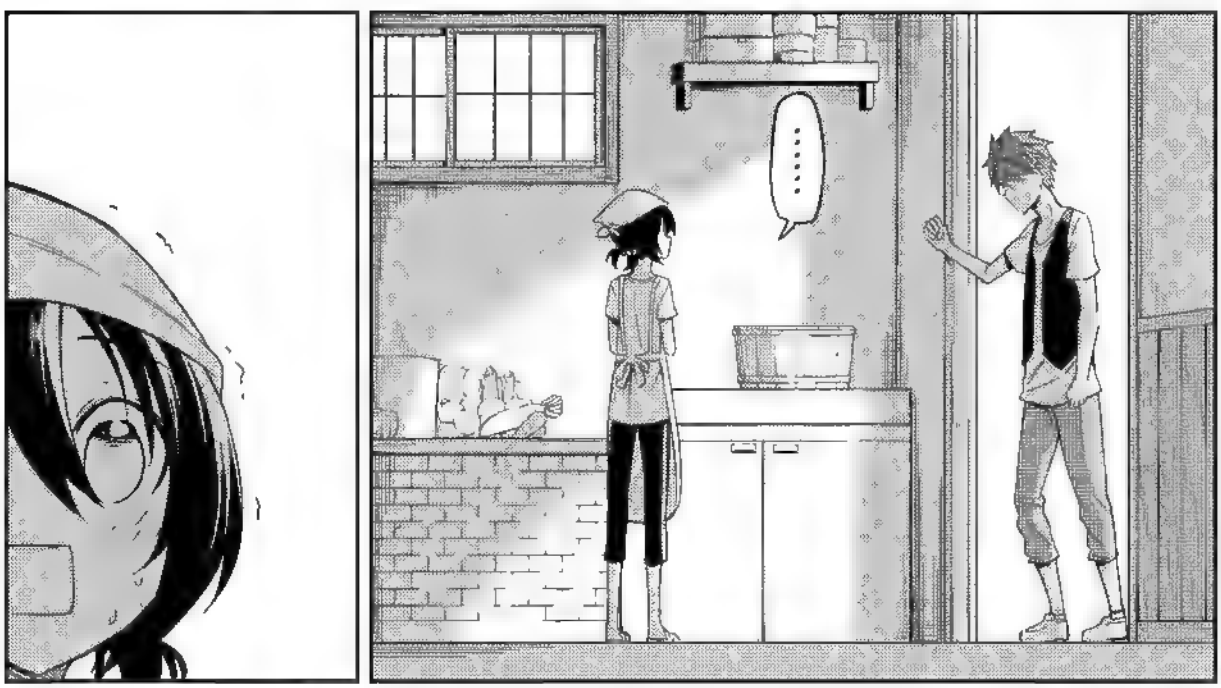
'FESS UP, YOU MASKED FREAK!
ZDA-DAN
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?


WHAT THE--?! I'M WRONG?! CRAP, NOW THAT'S EMBAR-RASSING !!
OH! BUT YOU CAN HAVE THIS KEY! HERE! TAKE IT!!
UM, NO? WE JUST HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHIMOTO! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD ABOUT ANY TREASURE!

D-FRAGMENTS
ディーふらぐ!

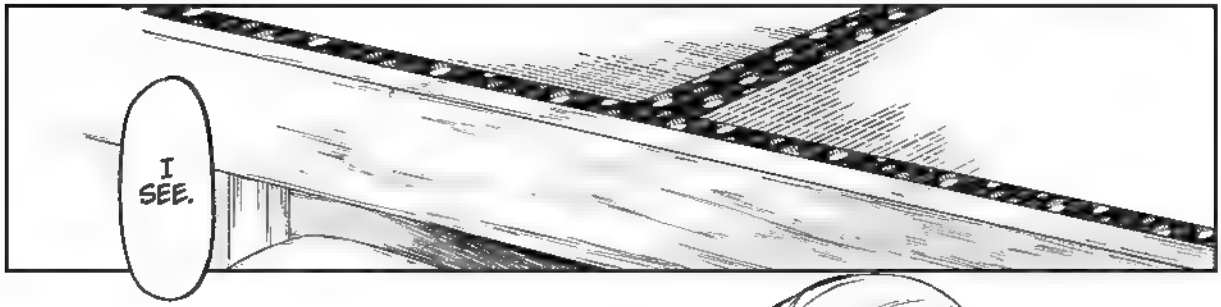
FUNA-
BORI.

WOULD YOU COOK DINNER FOR ME?
PLEASE.


.....

I'M BEGGING YOU. THE THOUGHT OF ACTUALLY EATING ANYTHING THAT LOT TRIES TO COOK JUST... BRRR!
Bow
Please.
OH. RIGHT. I UNDER-STAND. OF COURSE. I DON'T MIND.

Chapter 49 She's Finally Mastered the Art!!

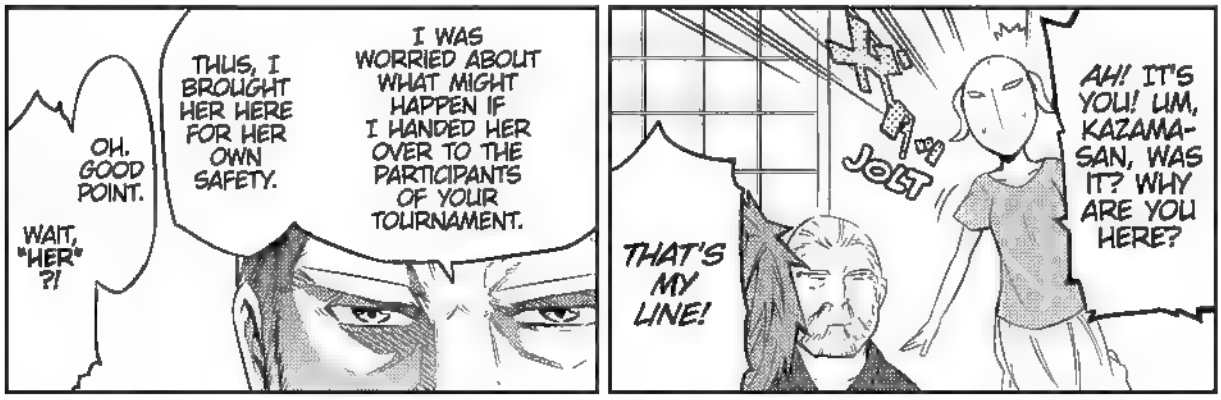


YEAH. I QUICKLY LEARNED THAT, TO SUPPORT MYSELF AND MY HEALTH, I SHOULD COME STRAIGHT HERE.
Have some tea.
HA HA HA! THAT IS ALSO A VALUABLE LESSON.

I THINK THAT'S A SPLENDID IDEA! IT WILL HELP THE STUDENTS LEARN TO BE INDEPENDENT AND SELF-SUPPORTING.
INSTEAD OF SIMPLY FEEDING THE PARTICIPANTS, THE EVENT STAFF HAS GIVEN OUT INGREDIENTS SO EVERYONE CAN COOK THEIR OWN MEALS.

THESE YOUNG LADIES ARE STUDENTS OF NISHINAGA-SENSEI, SO WE CAN BE SURE WHATEVER THEY MAKE WILL BE DELICIOUS.
NO, NO! I WAS ACTUALLY THE ADVISOR TO THE HOME-EC CLUB.
I ONLY RECENTLY BECAME THE ADVISOR TO THE COOKING CLUB, TOO. I'M ACTUALLY A PRETTY BAD COOK!
YOU ADVISE TWO CLUBS? THAT'S GOTTA BE ROUGH.
OH, NO! IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT. IN FACT, THE HOME-ED CLUB SPENDS MOST OF ITS TIME BAKING SWEETS ANYWAY.
SOMEONE SUGGESTED THAT THE SCHOOL MIGHT AS WELL JUST GIVE BOTH CLUBS THE SAME ADVISOR, AND SO I GOT THE JOB! IT REALLY DOESN'T MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO ME.
SO, SHE JUST WENT ALONG WITH SOME-ONE ELSE'S IDEA?
BLAH BLAH BLAH
BUT WHEN SENSEI BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF A FIELD TRIP FOR GATHERING NATURAL INGREDIENTS, HARDLY ANYONE VOLUNTEERED TO COME. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
EEEE
YOU'RE ON A FIELD TRIP FOR NATURAL INGREDIENTS AND YOU'RE MAKING INSTANT RAMEN FOR DINNER?!
YEP! I CAN MAKE SOME FOR YOU, TOO, IF YOU WANT--
NO THANKS. FUNABORI IS ALREADY MAKING SOMETHING FOR ME.
YOU LOOK DOWN ON ME FOR MAKING RAMEN, BUT AT LEAST I'M NOT MAKING SOMEONE ELSE COOK FOR ME!
UM, I-I'LL DO MY VERY BEST, KAZAMA-KUN.
DON'T STRESS OUT ABOUT IT. JUST MAKE WHAT-EVER.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
WHAT THE HECK ?!
HM?
You're welcome, dear.
BFFT!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALLOWING ME TO BORROW YOUR SHOWER.

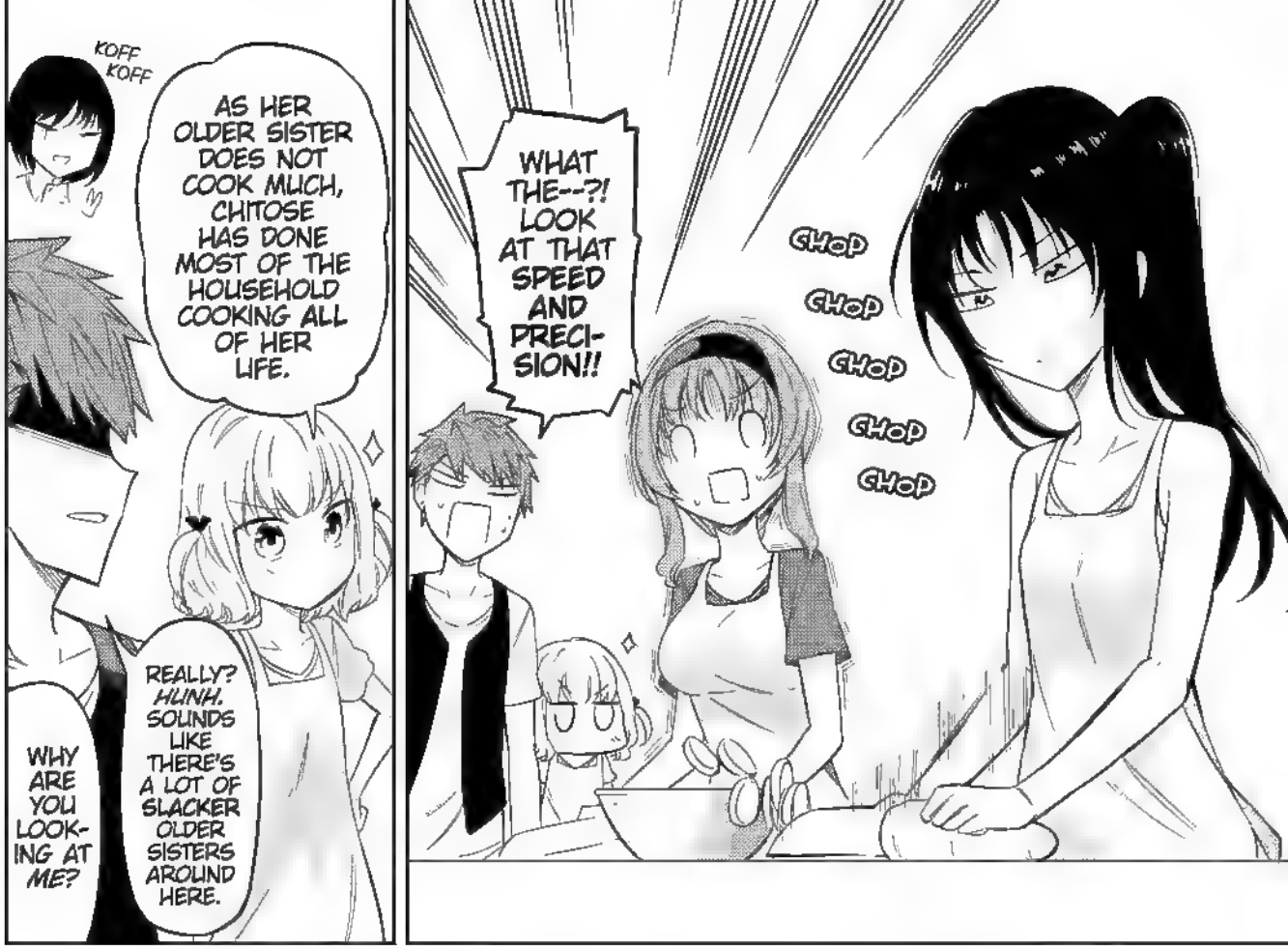

OH. GOOD POINT.
WAIT, "HER" ?!
THUS, I BROUGHT HER HERE FOR HER OWN SAFETY.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF I HANDED HER OVER TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF YOUR TOURNAMENT.
THAT'S MY LINE!
JOLT
AH! IT'S YOU! UM, KAZAMA-SAN, WAS IT? WHY ARE YOU HERE?

At first, I was so shocked I thought I'd have a heart attack!
WITH AGE COMES WISDOM, YOUNG MAN. BESIDES, PEOPLE DRESSED LIKE HER WERE HERE LAST YEAR, TOO. I GOT USED TO THEM.
SO, IT'S NOT "WISDOM," YOU'VE JUST SEEN THEM BEFORE!!
OW! OW!! I COULDN'T HELP IT, OKAY ?!
BAD BAD BAD
HEY, NOW! DON'T YOU GO STARING AT A YOUNG LADY'S BODY LIKE THAT, YOU NAUGHTY BOY!
AND AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THIS WEIRDO WOMAN IN A MASK?!
HUH!
SHE REALLY IS A SHE.

LOOM
ANYWAY, YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT. I WANNA ASK YOU SOME STUFF ABOUT--
HUH? THAT WAS JUST DUMB LUCK. DON'T MENTION IT.
NO, NO, REALLY. THANK YOU. IT WAS MY FAULT WE FELL OFF THE CLIFF, AFTER ALL.
UM... THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR SAVING MY LIFE EARLIER TODAY.
FOUND YOU, KAZAMA-SAN.
Nooooo!!
Let me go!!
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
COME, KAZAMA-SAN. DINNER IS WAITING.
AUGH!! H-HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?!
WE HEARD THE SNAP OF YOUR COME-BACKS.
DAMMIT! I GAVE MYSELF AWAY!!
FORGET THAT LOSER.
GOOD LUCK, KAZAMA. I KNOW YOU CAN OVERCOME THIS.

WHOA, IS THIS WHERE WE GET TO STAY TONIGHT?
YEAH! AREN'T THEY QUAINT?
YOU WERE IN A BIG HURRY TO DRAG ME OVER HERE...
BUT THERE'S THE NO FOOD!! I'M FREAKIN' STARVING!!
BA-BAAAAN
HELL, ALL OF YOUR INGRE-DIENTS ARE STILL ALIVE!!
PEEP
I found some good water!
PLISH
OINK
OINK
Cluck!
AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED MAKING ANY-THING YET?!
DON'T WORRY, KAZAMA-SAN. I HAVE SOME ALREADY-PROCESSED PORK, RIGHT HERE.
YEAH, BUT ALL THAT MEANS IS YOU'VE FINALLY REACHED WHAT MOST PEOPLE CONSIDER THE STARTING POINT!!
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO SIMPLE, BUT I STILL REMEMBER THE TIME I OPENED THE REFRIGERATOR AND THERE WAS NO PORK... I STILL GET CHILLS THINKING ABOUT IT!
You ate all the meat in the refrigerator for a midnight snack again?! Now we don't have any for curry tonight?!!
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS SOOO TOUGH!
Awww!!

SHHK
SHHK
WHAT? YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
.....
TAKAO IS COOK-ING?!
SHHK
SHHK
I...I JUST DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD.
WHY NOT ?!
CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP
!!
DEAR GOD, PLEASE LET IT BE EDIBLE...
SHOULD-N'T SHE BE WITH HER OWN CLUB?
What's she doing here?
You'll make a great wife someday, Takao.
Who wants to help me cook?
I'VE BEEN TAUGHT LOTS OF TRICKS BY MY MOM AND SISTERS, Y'KNOW! I'M NOT TOTALLY HOPELESS!
REALLY? WOW. SO WE CAN EXPECT SOME-THING EDIBLE?
CHOP CHOP CHOP


KOFF KOFF
AS HER OLDER SISTER DOES NOT COOK MUCH, CHITOSE HAS DONE MOST OF THE HOUSEHOLD COOKING ALL OF HER LIFE.
REALLY? HUNH. SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A LOT OF SLACKER OLDER SISTERS AROUND HERE.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?
WHAT THE--?! LOOK AT THAT SPEED AND PRECISION!!
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP

HEY! BADMOUTH MY BIG SISTER AND I'LL FEED YOU A KNUCKLE SANDWICH!!
GRAWR!
GAH! SORRY! REALLY! JUST GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT!
YOU? HA! I WASN'T MAKING ANYTHING FOR YOU FROM THE START!
LOOKS LIKE ALL THE LITTLE SISTERS ARE PRETTY ROTTEN, TOO!!

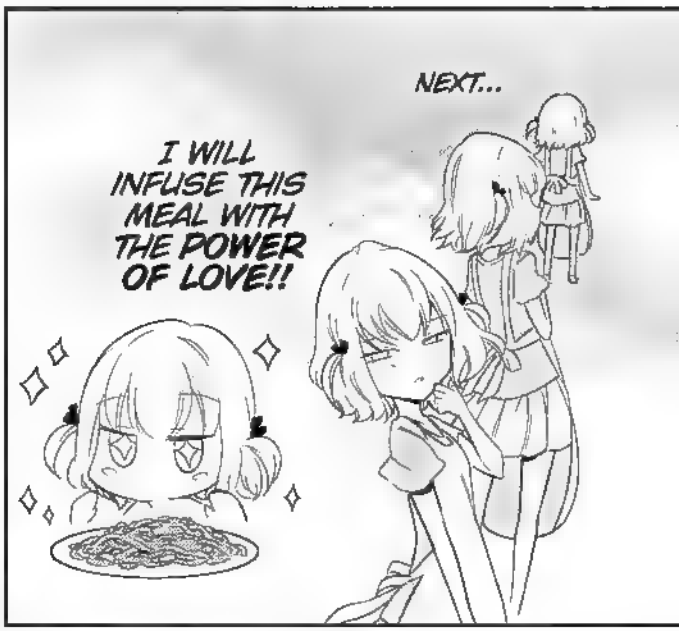
SO, US LITTLE SISTERS ARE ROTTEN NOW, TOO? THAT'S NOT VERY NICE.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE BESTEST LITTLE SISTER--AKA ME--IS GONNA MAKE A YUMMY DINNER FOR MY ONIICHAN!
YOU AREN'T MY LITTLE SISTER! YOU'RE JUST PRETENDING TO BE! AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN DOING A GOOD JOB OF THAT!!

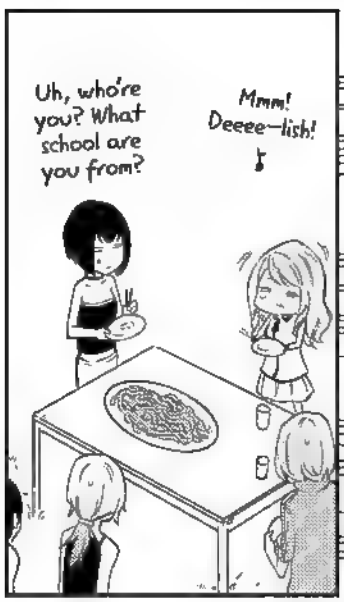
BUT... CAN YOU COOK?
HA! I BET YOU THOUGHT TO YOURSELF, "WAIT, I THOUGHT SHE LIVED OFF WATER ALONE."
URK!
YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU? WELL, I'M DISAP-POINTED IN YOU, ONIICHAN. VERY DISAP-POINTED.
DISAP-POINTED?! I THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE IT AS A COMPLIMENT!
OH, IT IS! ♪
THEN QUIT WITH THE CREEPY LOOK!
ALRIGHTY! THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO SHOW YOU JUST HOW TALENTED I AM AT EVERYTHING I PUT MY MIND TO!
CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP
WHOA! I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST TALKING BIG, BUT SHE HAS ACTUAL SKILLS! LOOK AT THAT KNIFE WORK!!
WOW...!
GAH! RELAX, TAKAO! YOU'VE, UH... YOU'VE GOT SOME SKILLS TOO! TOTAL-LY!
I MEAN, UH, YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF POTEN-TIAL.
Wait, did he hesitate? He did, didn't he? Does he think I suck that much?
I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO ASK, BUT... CAN YOU COOK?
YOU DOUBT MY CULI-NARY SKILLS ?!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW YOU WHAT I CAN DO!!

TA-DAAAAH!
WHAT, WEREN'T YOU GOING TO SHOW OFF YOUR COOKING SKILLS?! THAT'S JUST A PLATE OF NOODLES !!
SIZZ
SIZZ
ALL DONE!!
FIRST, FEAST YOUR EYES UPON THIS PLATE OF FRESHLY-COOKED DELICIOUS YAKI-UDON!

ZAP

IT WAS DONE BEFORE YOU EVEN TOUCHED IT! IT'S JUST GONNA GO COLD IF YOU KEEP STARING AT IT LIKE THAT!!
THERE! FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH MY WARM, PROTECTIVE LOVE, THIS YAKI-UDON IS NOW COMPLETE.


NEXT...
I WILL INFUSE THIS MEAL WITH THE POWER OF LOVE!!

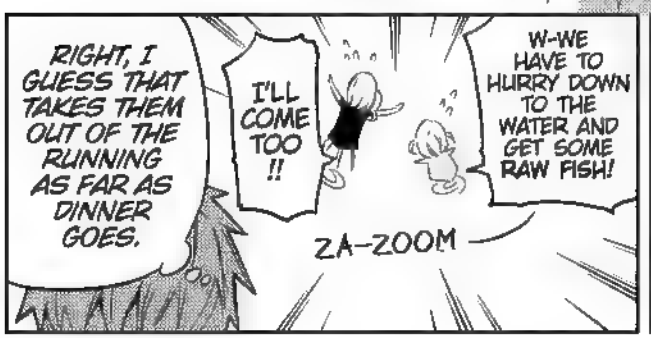

Uh, who're you? What school are you from?
Mmm! Deeee—lish!
♪

ONEECHAN'S LOVE TAKES THE NORMAL, BORING YAKI-UDON I MADE AND TURNS IT INTO SOMETHING MAGICAL AND DELICIOUS!
SLURRRP
MMM MMM MM! YAKI-UDON INFUSED WITH THE POWER OF ONEECHAN'S LOVE! MY FAVORITE! ♪
SO, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY MADE IT?!
SLRP SLRRRP

HA! TAKE THAT, KAZAMA! YOU AREN'T GOING TO GET A BITE OF MY ONEECHAN'S AWESOME COOKING WHILE I'M AROUND!
THAT'S YOUR COOKING, NOT YOUR SISTER'S! GOD, BOTH OF YOU ARE UTTERLY HOPE-LESS!!
HA! IDIOT. IF YOU EVER TRIED ANYTHING ONEECHAN COOKED FOR REAL, YOU'D DIE OF PLEASURE!
REALLY? THEN LET ME TRY SOME.
PLEASE DO--
HELL NO! YOU'RE NOT EVEN WORTHY ENOUGH TO TAKE A SNIFF!
!!
SO BASICALLY, YOU CAN'T COOK A THING.
BUT IF YOU ASK ME REAL NICELY, I MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO GIVE YOU A HINT ABOUT WHAT ONEECHAN'S SPECIALTY IS.
BUT YOU WON'T LET ME EAT IT, RIGHT? SO WHAT DO I CARE--
YES, YOU GUESSED IT! ONEE-CHAN'S SPECIALTY IS NIGIRI SUSHI!!
REALLY, I DON'T CARE.

IT ALL BEGAN WHEN ONEECHAN FIRST STARTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. IT WAS THERE SHE FIRST HIT UPON THE IDEA OF PUTTING A SLICE OF SASHIMI ON TOP OF SOME RICE.
No, this is not sushi. It's just sashimi on top of some rice.
I wanna try, too!
Lookie, lookie!
AT THAT POINT, MOST CHILDREN WOULD GIVE UP ON THEIR DREAMS OF MAKING SUSHI. BUT NOT MY ONEECHAN!!
I. DON'T. CARE.
STAAAAARE
STARE
SHE BEGAN TO OBSERVE MASTER SUSHI CHEFS AT WORK, STUDYING THEIR EVERY MOVE...
ENOUGH ALREADY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ON FOREVER ABOUT A CHARACTER QUIRK YOU PROBABLY JUST MADE UP A MINUTE AGO!

...UNTIL THE DAY SHE MASTERED THE ART!!
"AH, SO ROKA-CHAN HAS FINALLY GRADUATED FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL... WAIT, WAS IT JUNIOR HIGH? I THINK IT'S JUNIOR HIGH. BOY, I MUST BE GETTING OLD.
"AH, SORRY. I MUST'VE USED TOO MUCH WASABI, I'M TEARING UP... ANYWAY. CONGRATULATIONS.
"OH, I HEAR YOU'VE FINALLY LEARNED HOW TO MAKE SUNNY-SIDE-UP EGGS WITHOUT BURNING THEM."
"MASTERED THE ART" MY BUTT!! THAT'S JUST A MEMORY FROM WHEN SHE GRADUATED JUNIOR HIGH! NOT THAT SHE'S MATURED MUCH BEYOND THAT POINT, EITHER!!


RIGHT, I GUESS THAT TAKES THEM OUT OF THE RUNNING AS FAR AS DINNER GOES.
I'LL COME TOO !!
W-WE HAVE TO HURRY DOWN TO THE WATER AND GET SOME RAW FISH!
ZA-ZOOM

MR. SUSHI CHEF, TODAY, I WILL FINALLY MAKE SUSHI...FOR OTHERS.
KRIK
UH, WE DON'T HAVE ANY RAW FISH HERE.
!

OKAY, SO WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON MAKING?
CURRY.
CURRY? OKAY... CURRY IS HARD TO SCREW UP AT LEAST.

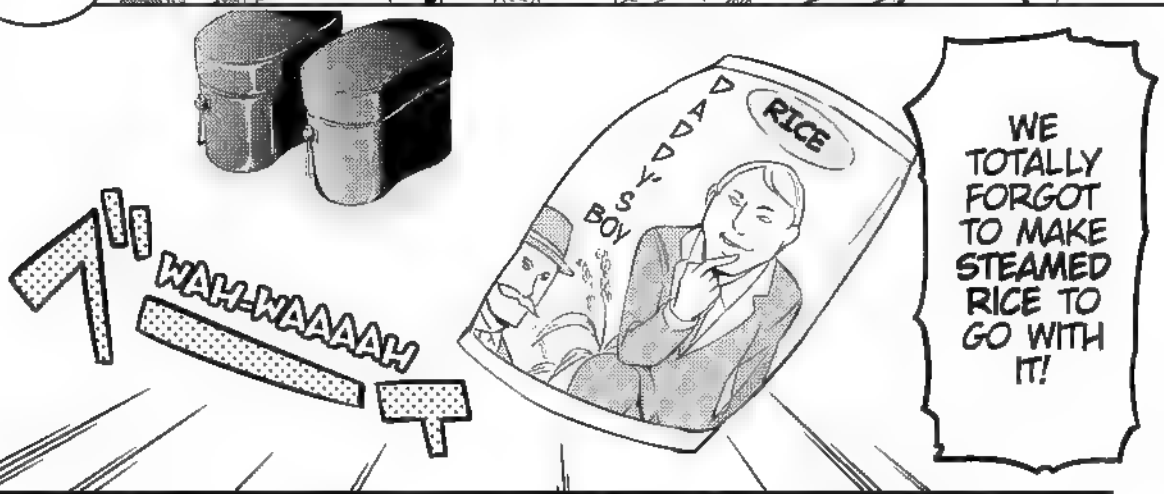
OH MY GOD... THREE DIFFERENT TYPES?! YOU'VE FOUND A WAY TO SCREW IT UP!!
Mason's Curry!
Comes with a Special Mason Sticker!
MILD
The Star Prince
SUPER FIRE
HOT
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR EXCUSES, EITHER!!
D-DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I DON'T JUST BUY THIS BRAND BECAUSE I'M COLLECTING THE STICKERS THAT COME WITH THEM...
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR EXCUSES!
The Star Prince
UH, THIS IS THE KIND I ALWAYS GET. MY OLDER SISTER CAN'T HANDLE SPICY FOODS. BUT THIS KIND'S NOT THAT BAD, REALLY.
I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THAT COMING...
HOT CURRY IS THE BEST, BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU WANT TO DRINK LOTS AND LOTS OF WATER! ♪
GREAT! NOW WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!
WE ONLY HAVE ONE POT!
WHAT NOW?!
UH-OH! I THINK WE MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM...

HEY, YOU'RE JUST PICKING ON TAKAO NOW!
SAME HERE. IF YOU DON'T, THEY COOK UNEVENLY. HOW TO CHOP INGREDIENTS PROPERLY IS ONE OF THE MOST BASIC COOKING SKILLS OUT THERE.
WELL, I'VE CUT ALL OF MY INGREDIENTS INTO SMALL, UNIFORMLY-SIZED PIECES.
WHAT?!
MY. THAT'S AWFULLY DEMANDING FOR SOMEONE WHO HASN'T EVEN LIFTED A FINGER TO HELP MAKE DINNER.
SOME-BODY JUST COOK SOME-THING! NOW !!
WHATEVER! I'M TOO HUNGRY TO CARE ANYMORE!
I SEE.
OKAY. RIGHT.
YOU CAN COOK?!
THEN I'LL MAKE DINNER!!

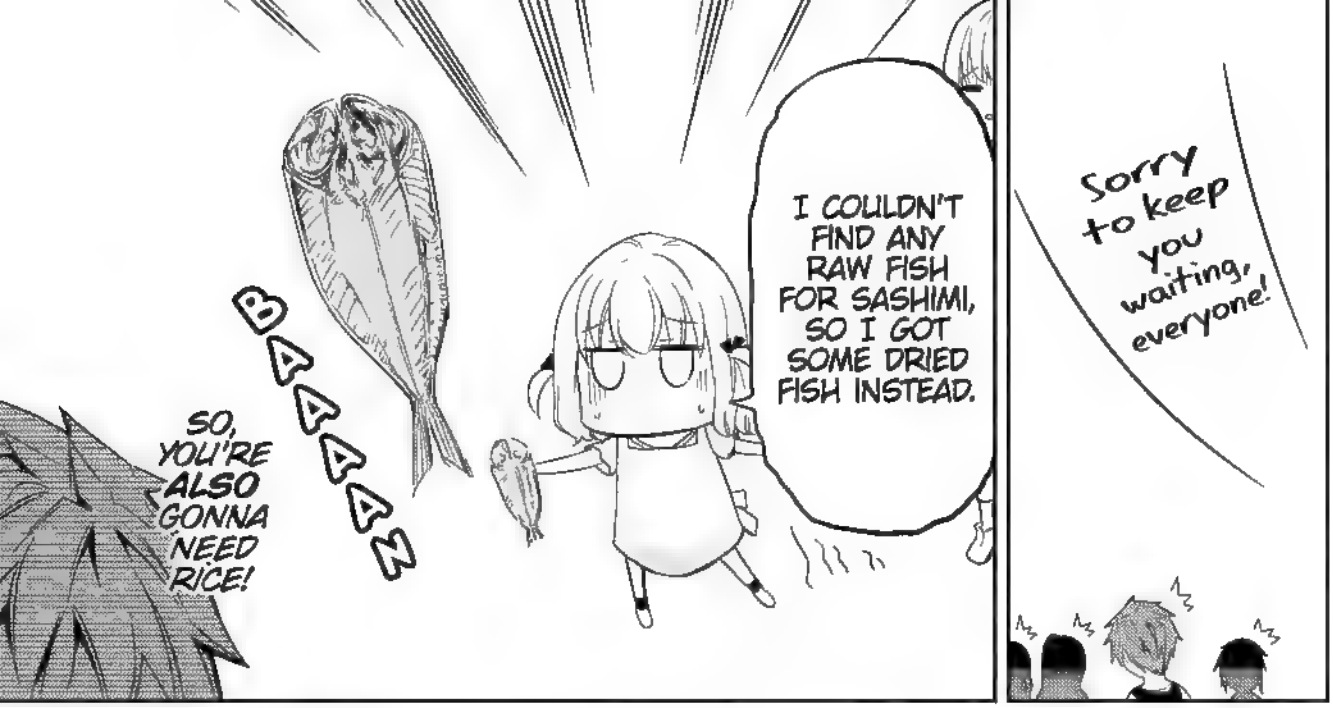
OH CRAP. I HAVE TO HURRY AND MAKE MY CURRY BEFORE KENJI CAN MAKE HIS!
You're a great little sister. Really.
Hey, I didn't mean you!
HUH? SIMPLE THINGS, YEAH. MOM AND DAD BOTH WORK, SO NOE AND I COOK FOR OURSELVES A LOT.
RIGHT, NOE?
UH, WHY IS SHE SULK-ING?
BECAUSE SOMEBODY SAID THAT ALL LITTLE SISTERS ARE ROTTEN.
TOSS TOSS TOSS
HEY! WE NEED TO SHARE THAT POT!
OH NO! AT THIS RATE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO COOK FOR ONIICHAN!
SHOVE
SHOVE
LET HER PUT IN HER STUFF, TOO!
NOOO! I DON'T WANT ANYTHING SPICY! MILD ROUX! MILD!!
SO IT'S YOU WHO CAN'T STAND SPICY STUFF, NOT YOUR SISTER!
BLOP
HI-YAH! SUPER-HOT CURRY ROUX SHOWER !!
WAIT, WHEN DID THIS TURN INTO A FIGHT?!
JEEZ, WHAT'S IT MATTER ANYMORE? JUST HURRY UP. I WANT TO EAT.
TWRL TWRL TWRL
OH, NOW YOU SAY SOME-THING? GO BACK TO SLEEP!!
WHO COULD SLEEP WHEN THEY'RE THIS HUNGRY ?
GLEAM
YOU CAN'T SLEEP ?!

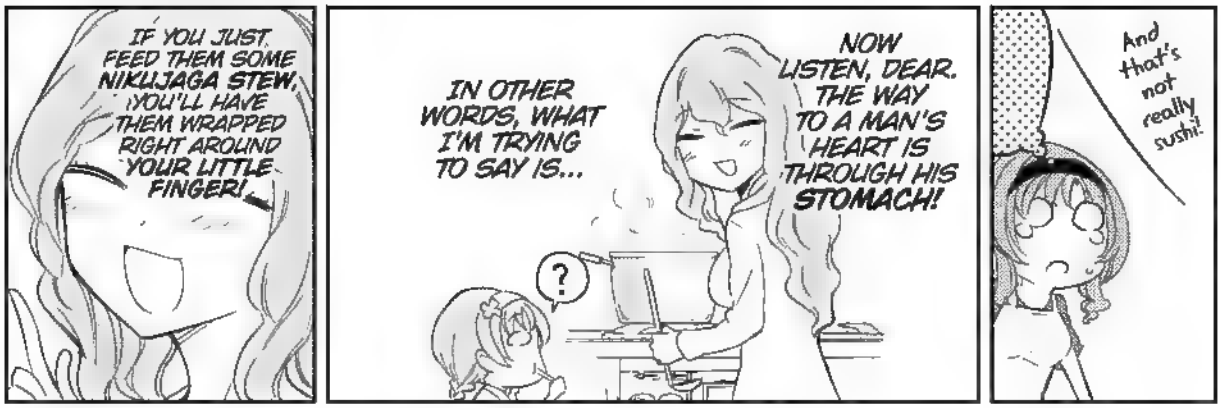
HUH.
HMM...
IT'S NOT BAD... BUT IT ISN'T REALLY GOOD, EITHER.
NU NU
WELL, IT'S DONE...
BLRBL BLRBL BLRBL
TWENTY MINUTES LATER.

BUT AREN'T WE ALL FORGETTING SOMETHING?
It tastes like it's missing something.
It's too spicy.
It's not spicy enough.
What—ever.
WHATEVER. IT'S EDIBLE, AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.


WAH-WAAAAH
RICE
DADDY'S BOY
WE TOTALLY FORGOT TO MAKE STEAMED RICE TO GO WITH IT!

RICE MAY BE BORING, BUT IT'S STILL A BIG PART OF THE MEAL!
Too spicy...
BUT MAKING RICE IS BORING. I WANTED TO SHOW OFF MY KITCHEN SKILLS...


Sorry to keep you waiting, everyone!
I COULDN'T FIND ANY RAW FISH FOR SASHIMI, SO I GOT SOME DRIED FISH INSTEAD.
BAAAAZ
SO, YOU'RE ALSO GONNA NEED RICE!


And that's not really sushi!
NOW LISTEN, DEAR. THE WAY TO A MAN'S HEART IS THROUGH HIS STOMACH!
IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
?
IF YOU JUST FEED THEM SOME NIKUJAGA STEW, YOU'LL HAVE THEM WRAPPED RIGHT AROUND YOUR LITTLE FINGER!

THAT'S WHY, WHEN LITTLE GIRLS GET BIG ENOUGH TO HELP THEIR MOMMIES COOK, THE FIRST THING THEY LEARN HOW TO MAKE IS THIS STEW.
BUT I LIKE CURRY BETTER THAN STEW!
I LIKE CURRY BEST!!
THAT'S NICE, DEAR. BUT I'M NOT ASKING WHAT YOU LIKE...
Curry! Curry!
AUGH!!
IF ONLY I'D LEARNED HOW TO MAKE NIKUJAGA STEW LIKE MOM WANTED, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!!
UH, I LIKE RICE WITH MY NIKUJAGA STEW, TOO.

WOO!
YEAH!
I WONDER IF ANY OF THE OTHER CLUBS HAVE ANY LEFT OVER.
YAAAAY!
LOOKING FOR FISH HAS REALLY MADE ME HUNGRY.
UH-OH. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO STEAL--I MEAN, ASK FOR RICE FROM SOMEONE ELSE!

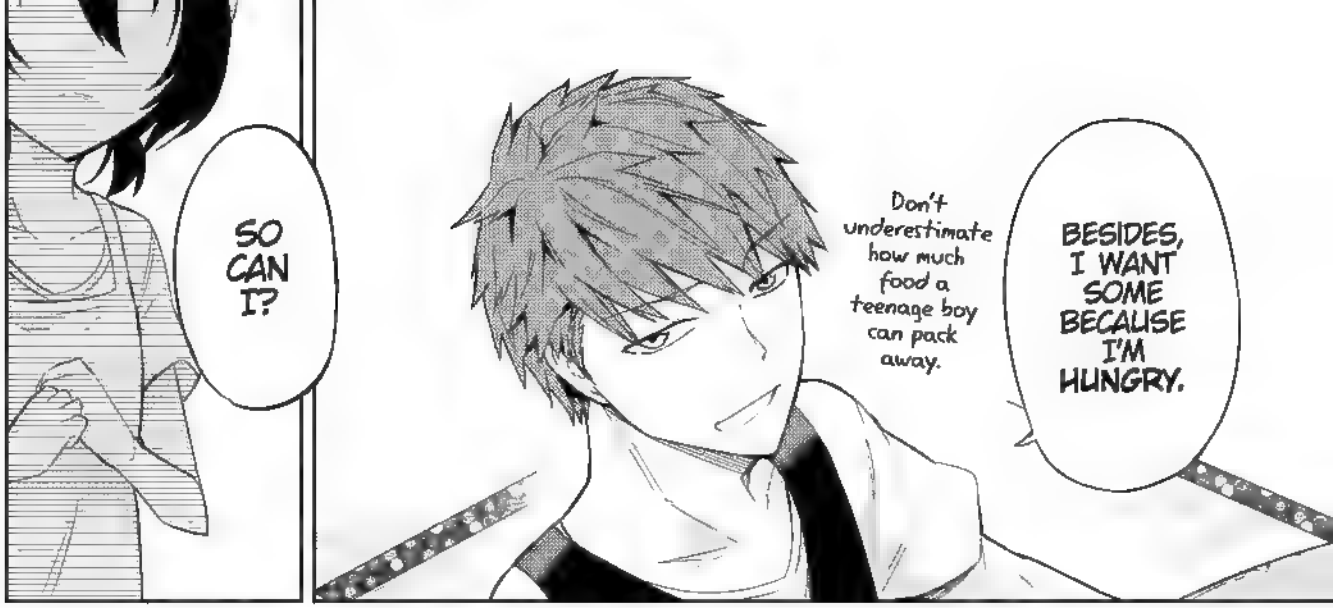
I GUESS WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE.
WELL...

WHA?
HUH?
UM... SURE.
BOW
COULD WE PLEASE HAVE SOME OF YOUR RICE?

HERE! I MADE A WHOLE LOT, SO TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
Woohoo! The Cooking Club pulls through again!!
WOW, DID YOU MAKE ALL THIS, FUNABORI? IT LOOKS REALLY GOOD.

CAN I HAVE SOME?
HUH?

BUT... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CURRY?!
I'LL EAT SOME OF THAT, TOO.
UM, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO EAT IT IF YOU'VE ALREADY MADE FOOD...
HEY, I'D NEVER ASK SOMEONE TO COOK FOR ME THEN NOT TOUCH WHAT THEY MADE. THAT'D JUST BE RUDE.

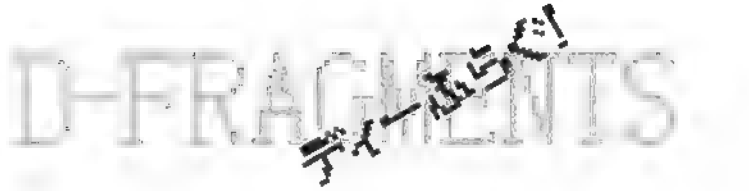

SO CAN I?
Don't underestimate how much food a teenage boy can pack away.
BESIDES, I WANT SOME BECAUSE I'M HUNGRY.

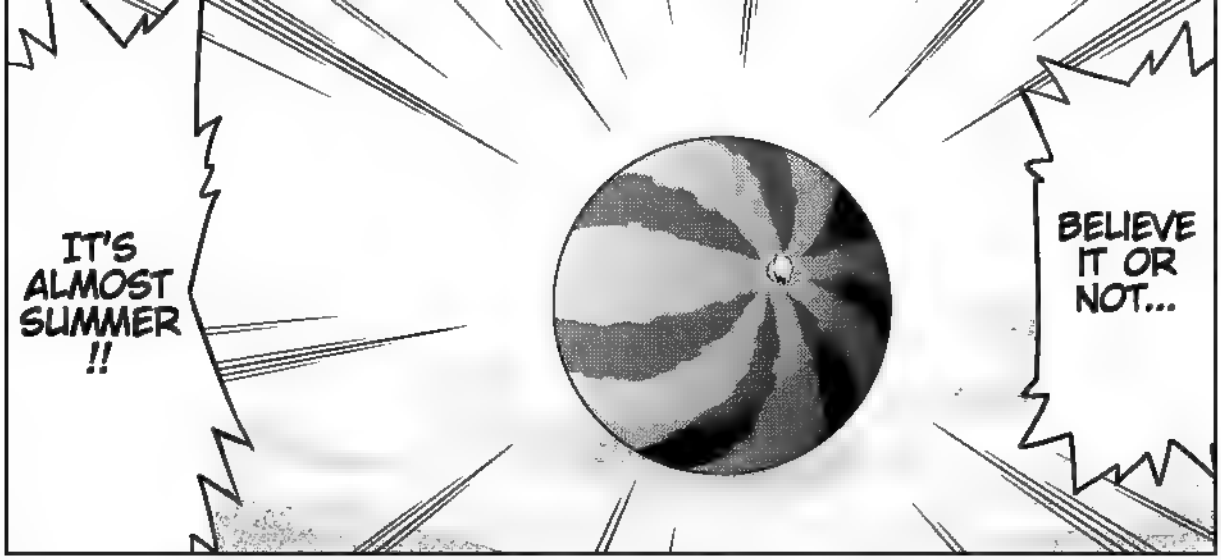
PLEASE HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE.
OF COURSE!

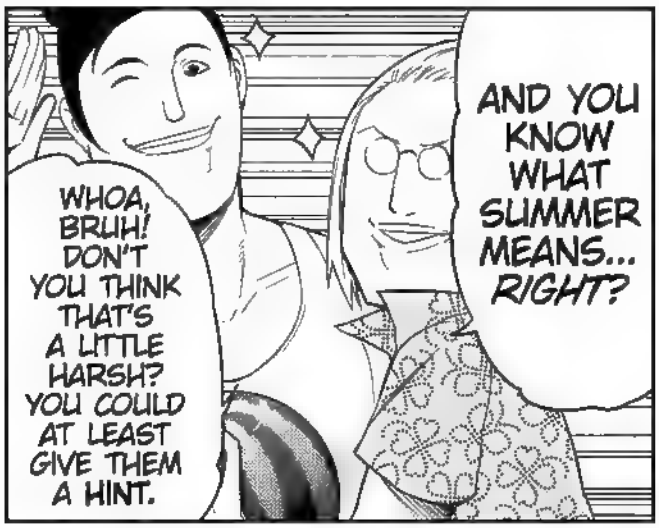
The power of youth!
WELL DONE, KAZAMA. WELL DONE. YOU HAVE OVERCOME THIS TRIAL SPLENDIDLY.

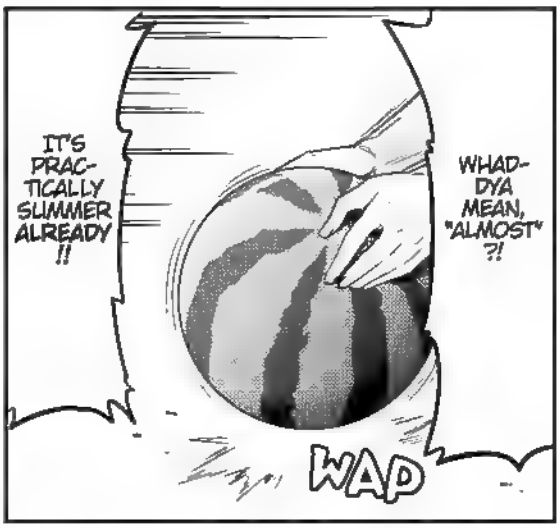
DAM-MIT!
HOW DO I GET OUT OF THIS?!
YOU CAN OVERCOME THIS AS WELL, MY BOY!
HERE, KAZAMA-SAN! YOU CAN HAVE THE DRIED FISH I COOKED, TOO.

There are even more people here now ?!
Ulp...

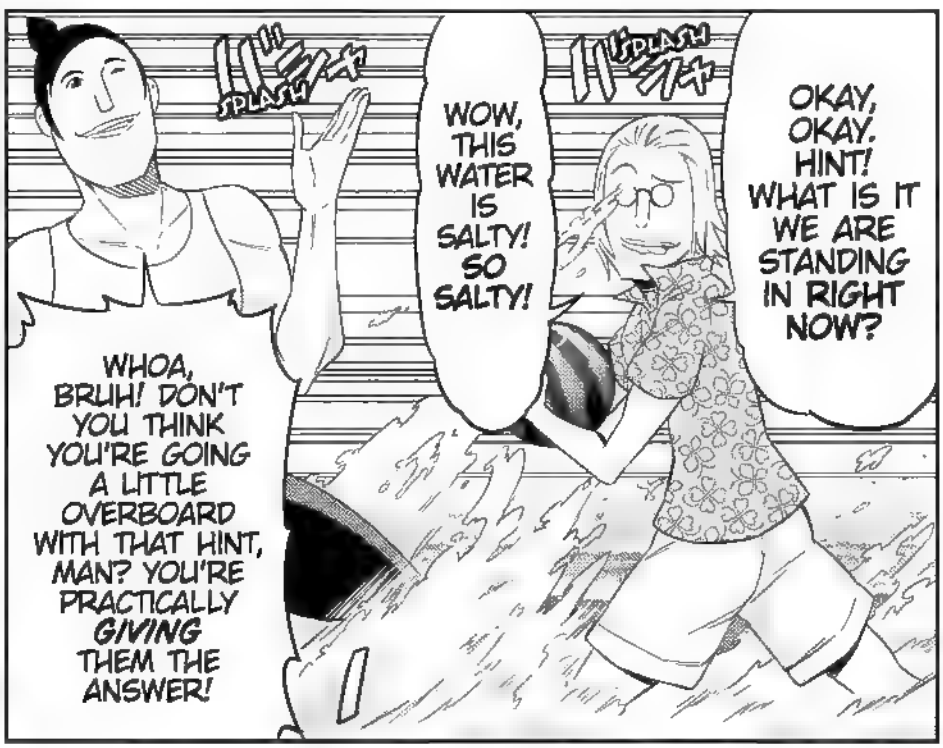

D-FRAGMENTS
ディーふらぐ!


IT'S ALMOST SUMMER !!
BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

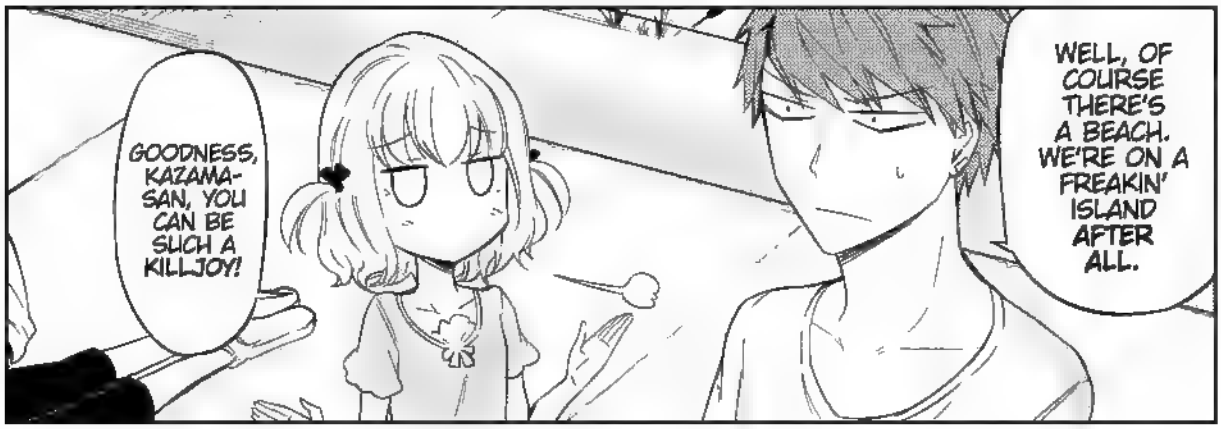

WHOA, BRUH! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A LITTLE HARSH? YOU COULD AT LEAST GIVE THEM A HINT.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT SUMMER MEANS... RIGHT?


IT'S PRAC-TICALLY SUMMER ALREADY !!
WHAD-DYA MEAN, "ALMOST" ?!
WAP

THAT'S RIGHT, FOLKS! SUMMER MEANS--


SPLASH
SPLASH
WOW, THIS WATER IS SALTY! SO SALTY!
OKAY, OKAY. HINT! WHAT IS IT WE ARE STANDING IN RIGHT NOW?
WHOA, BRUH! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING A LITTLE OVERBOARD WITH THAT HINT, MAN? YOU'RE PRACTICALLY GIVING THEM THE ANSWER!

Chapter 50
"Pearl...Waster?"



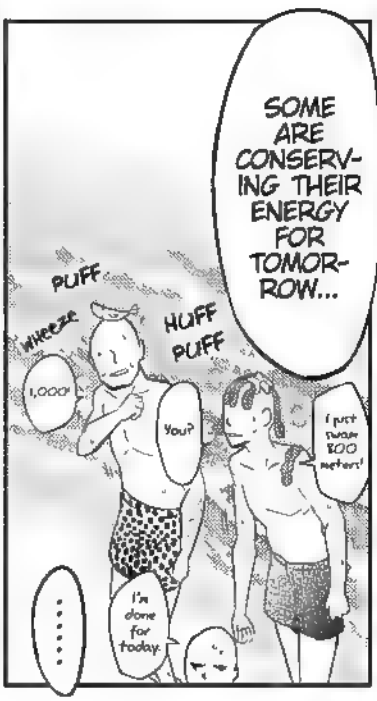
Ulp...!
ACTUALLY, WE HAD A MEETING ON THAT SUBJECT WHILE YOU WERE TOO STUFFED WITH FUNABORI'S COOKING TO MOVE.
HEY, I ATE THAT WEIRD CURRY AND YOUR TOTALLY NASTY DRIED FISH, TOO!!
WHAT ARE WE DINKING AROUND HERE FOR, ANYWAY? WE NEED TO GO RESCUE THAT HASHIMOTO GUY.
UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE THE WATER'S NOT ALL THAT WARM JUST YET. WE--AH-CHOO!!
NAH, THE WATER'S FINE, BRUH, FINE! HA-CHOO WAH-CHOO AH-CHOO!!
GET OUT BE-FORE YOU CATCH COLD!

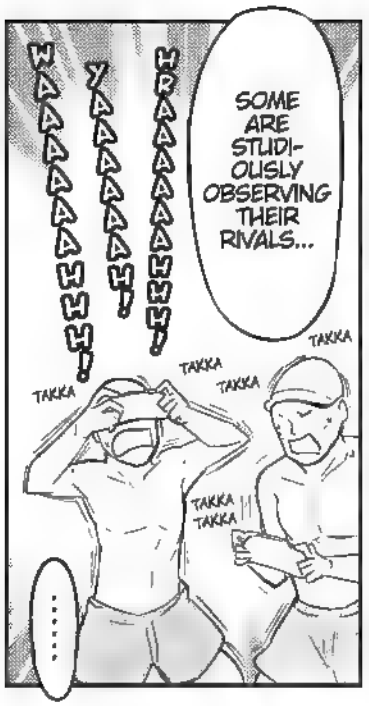
DA-DAN
30 MINUTES AGO.
A MEETING(?) ATTENDED BY ALL THE SCHOOL(?) GAME CLUBC(?) REPRESENT-ATIVES(?). (SOME ABSENCES RECORDED.)
WHAT'S THE POINT OF A MEETING AGENDA THAT'S FULL OF QUESTION MARKS?!
DON'T WORRY. HASHI-MOTO-SAN CAN HOLD OUT UNTIL WE DO!
Higashi Fuge High School Game Dev. Club (Unmarked) Captain
WE JUST NEED TO FIND THE LAST KEY!
Fujou Academy (Real) Game Dev. Club Captain
SO. WE HAVE ACQUIRED FOUR OF THE FIVE KEYS REQUIRED TO RESCUE HASHIMOTO-SAN.
Fujou Academy Game Dev. Club (Temp) Captain
IT'S OKAY. RIGHT ?
THEN ...
Random club members
Choufudentsu High School Institute Game Research Society 4 Kings, First Crown
EXACTLY. WE MAY NOT KNOW WHO THE ENEMY IS, BUT I DOUBT THEY'LL LEAVE THIS ISLAND.
WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE. WHEN DID THIS SUB-CULTURE BECOME FULL OF GIRLS?
Seitachigawa Girls Academy Game Dev. Club Captain (?)
YES, THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH. WE ACQUIRED FOUR KEYS IN ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS. FINDING THE FIFTH WILL BE EASY-PEASY!
AH, I SEE. IN OTHER WORDS ...
HEH HEH HEH ...
Random islanders who showed up because they spotted a crowd

WE'VE GOT THE AFTER-NOON OFF!
ZWOOOOM!!
LET'S GO SWIM-MING!
WOO-HOO !!
IN OTHER WORDS, NONE OF YOU CAN BE BOTHERED TO DO ANYTHING !!

WHOA, WHOA! AND YOU OKAYED THIS?!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL GUNG-HO ABOUT PARTI-CIPATING IN THIS TOUR-NAMENT! NOW YOU JUST WANNA GO TO THE BEACH?!
HA! YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO UNDER-ESTIMATE US BY NOW, KAZAMA-SAN.
HUH ?

I'M SURE IT MUST LOOK TO YOU LIKE EVERYONE IS SIMPLY GOOFING OFF AND ENJOYING THE AFTERNOON.
BUT THAT IS JUST A FAÇADE!


SOME ARE CONSERV-ING THEIR ENERGY FOR TOMOR-ROW...
PUFF
WHEEZE
HUFF PUFF
1,000?
You?
I just swam 100 meters!
I'm done for today.
.....


SOME ARE STUDI-OUSLY OBSERVING THEIR RIVALS...
TAKKA
TAKKA
TAKKA
TAKKA
TAKKA
TAKKA
.....

KAZAMA-SAN. PLEASE. SAY A COMEBACK. ANY COMEBACK.
UH... DON'T HOLD BACK TOO HARD?
AAAH! SUCH CUTTING WORDS! YES, I ADMIT IT! I WANT TO PLAY IN THE OCEAN! RIGHT NOW!!
ROLL ROLL ROLL
WELL, YOU SURE BROKE DOWN FAST!!
ROLL ROLL

I... I CAN'T.
WHY NOT?
IF YOU WANNA SWIM, GO. THE WATER'S RIGHT THERE.
TWITCH

BECAUSE I FORGOT TO BUY A SWIMSUIT.
...SWIMSUIT...
AH. OKAY.
"OKAY"? "OKAY"?! IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY, KAZAMA-SAN?! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A GIRL'S DELICATE FEELINGS AT ALL!!
SO, WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
THE OTHERS?! ..... !!

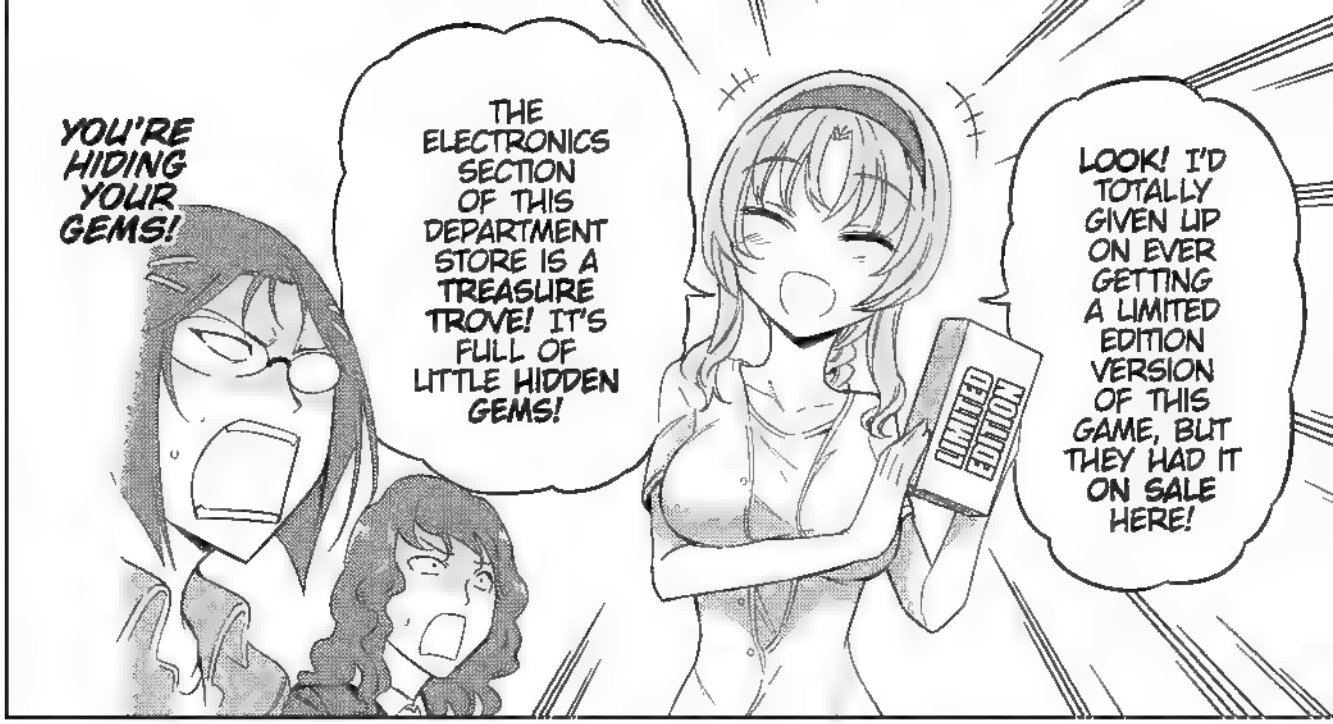
CHITOSE LOST HER SELF-CONTROL THE MOMENT SHE SET FOOT ON THE BEACH. SHE'LL NEVER REACH THE WATER.
A...A BEACH! A BEACH FULL OF SAND! SANDCASTLES... I COULD BUILD SOOOO MANY SANDCASTLES--! NO. NO, NO, NO, NO. I CAN'T GIVE IN TO THE TEMPTATION!
POOR CHITOSE. LET US HOPE FOR HER SAKE THAT THE WORLD NEVER BECOMES ONE BIG DESERT.
I THINK WE'D ALL HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS, IN THAT CASE.
AND SA-KURA ...
SEMPAI, DID YOU KNOW? THE OCEAN IS SALTY! SALTY! I CAN'T DRINK THAT! NO ONE CAN!
UH, YEAH. *DUH.* I KNEW THAT. WHAT ARE YOU...? HOLD ON.
DID YOU SERI-OUSLY *NOT* KNOW THAT?!

UNBELIEVABLE. WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT WE WOULD BE REDUCED TO SUCH A STATE BY SOMETHING AS MEASLY AS THE OCEAN?
STUPID SEA!
IT'S JUST THE OCEAN!
IT'S NOT SO TOUGH!
REALLY? YOU'RE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH AN INANIMATE OBJECT THAT COVERS 70% OF THE WORLD'S SURFACE?

TAKAO-SAN!
WHAT?!

IT'S RARE TO SEE YOU ALL LIKE THIS.
AH!

RIGHT.
I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.
KAZAMA-SAN, HER EYES ARE UP THERE.
?
TAKA... OH.
I'M SORRY.
ペコリ
BOW
I TRIED, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH.
TRIED WHAT?!
I GAVE IT MY BEST SHOT, TOO!
COME ON, CAPTAIN. TODAY WE'LL FINALLY FIND THE PERFECT SWIMSUIT FOR YOU!
HUH? BUT I DON'T REALLY ...
RIGHT THIS WAY!
YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO NAB HIM WITH JUST YOUR SCHOOL SWIMSUIT!
Sure, some guys go for that, but I know you've outgrown it since the last time you wore it!
"NAB" WHO?
THIS TRIP IS YOUR BIG CHANCE, CAPTAIN!!
UNDERSTAND?!
HUH? O-OKAY...
YOU'RE KIDDING... YOU WANT ONE WITH A BUST HOW BIG?!
I KNOW! AND SHE'S CLUELESS! IT'S LIKE PEARLS BEFORE SWINE!
SOME GIRLS ARE JUST LUCKY ...!
AH, INADA!
NOW WHERE'D MY CLUELESS CAPTAIN GO?

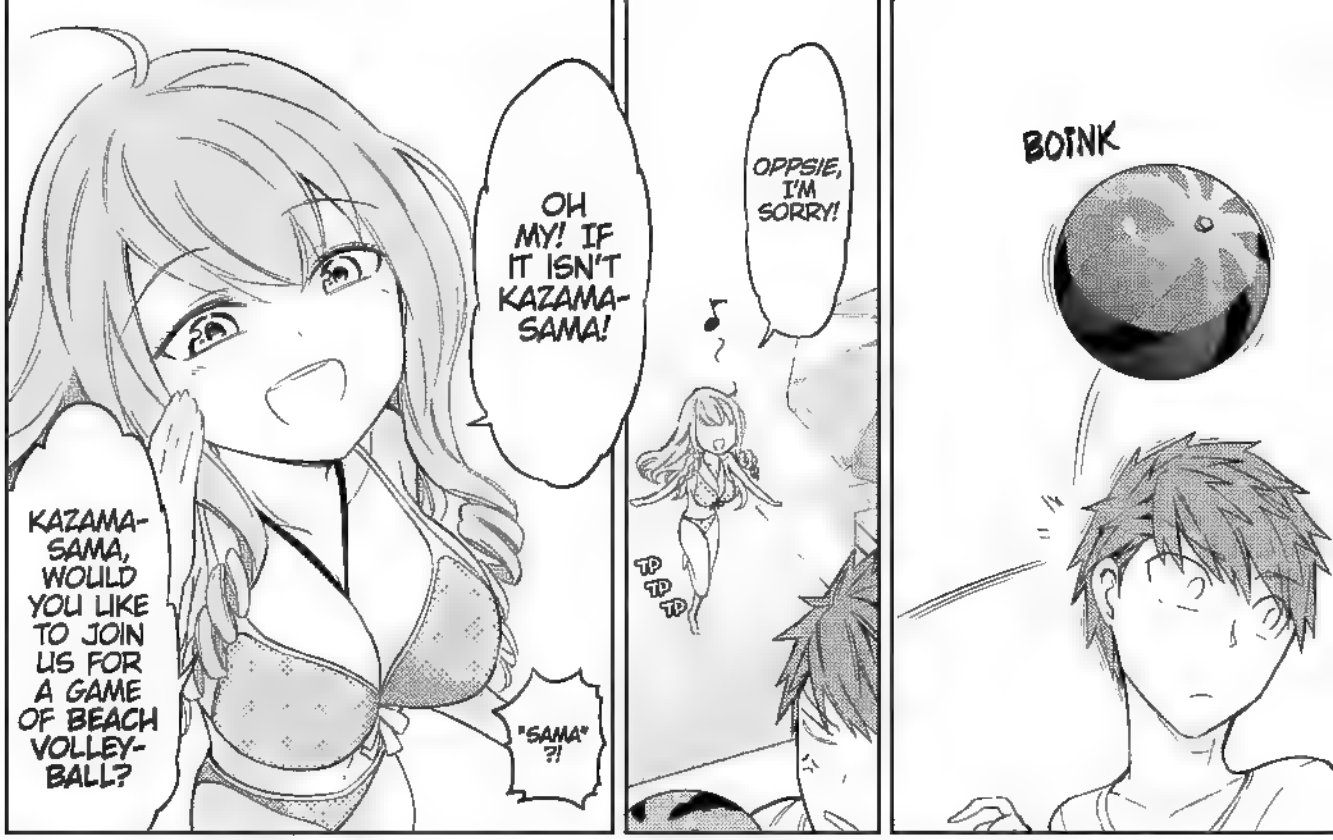

YOU'RE HIDING YOUR GEMS!
THE ELECTRONICS SECTION OF THIS DEPARTMENT STORE IS A TREASURE TROVE! IT'S FULL OF LITTLE HIDDEN GEMS!
LOOK! I'D TOTALLY GIVEN UP ON EVER GETTING A LIMITED EDITION VERSION OF THIS GAME, BUT THEY HAD IT ON SALE HERE!
LIMITED EDITION

ARGH! THIS WAS YOUR ONE CHANCE...!
WE'LL HAVE TO GET A SWIMSUIT SOME OTHER TIME.
SOOOO...
BUT, UM... I'M SORRY. SINCE I BOUGHT THIS GAME, I'M KINDA BROKE NOW...

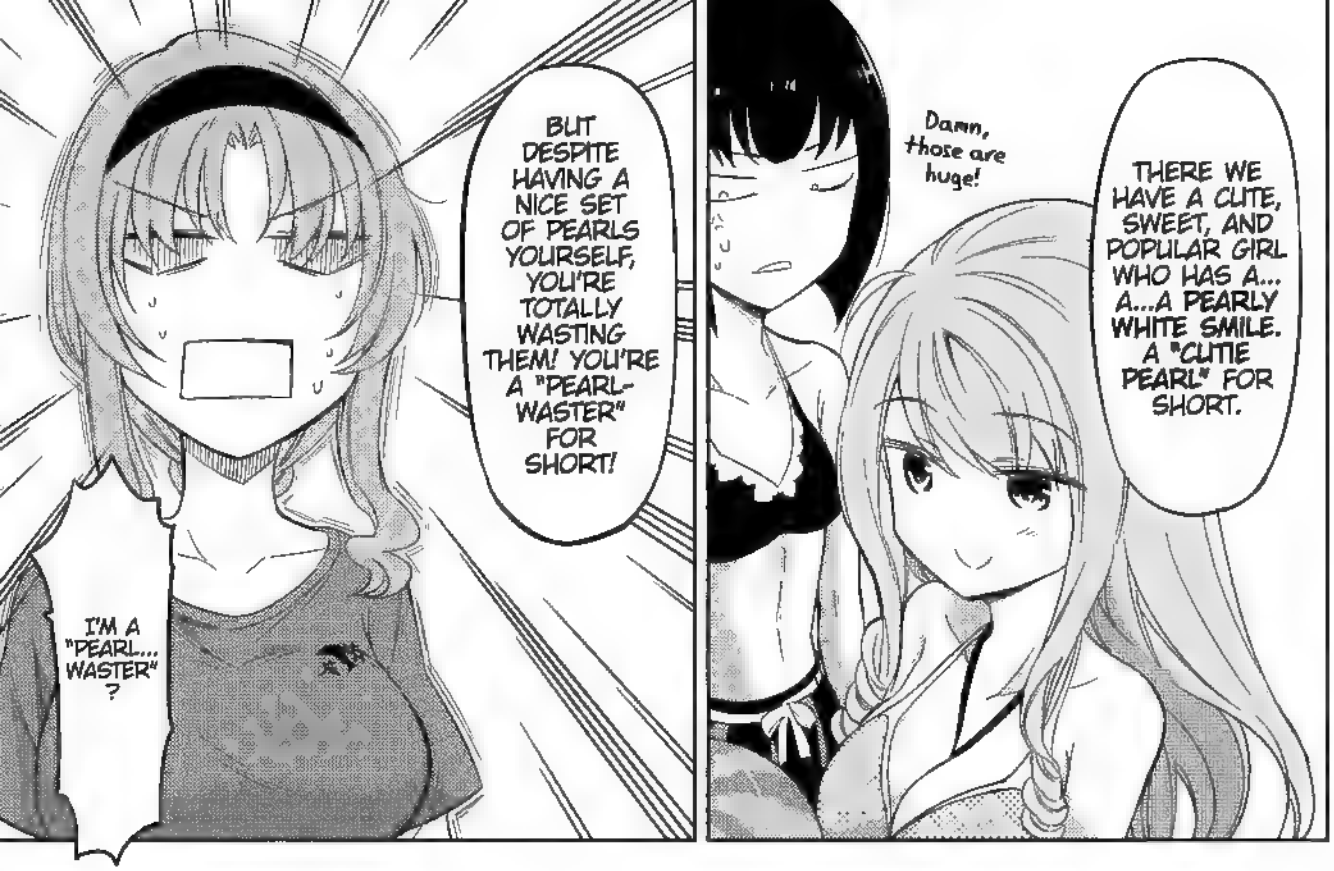
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN ASSUAGE MY PAIN WITH SIMPLE COMPLIMENTS... YOU'D BE RIGHT! HEE HEE!
?!
BY THE WAY, YOU LOOK CUTE IN THAT SWIMSUIT, INADA.
YAMMER
YAMMER
WAAAAAH!
HM?

YOU DON'T HAVE IT EASY, THAT'S FOR SURE.
YEAH.
B-But I really wanted that game!
KAZAMA-SEMPAI, YOU UNDERSTAND. RIGHT? YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY PAIN... MY FRUSTRATION!

HELLO, EVERYONE! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER DAY!
Yowza!
Whoohoo! Whoa!
Hubba-hubba!
SEE?! THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!

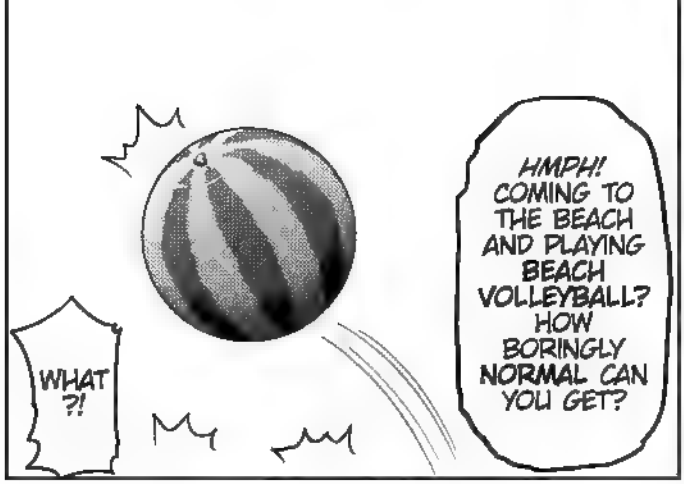

KAZAMA-SAMA, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR A GAME OF BEACH VOLLEY-BALL?
OH MY! IF IT ISN'T KAZAMA-SAMA!
"SAMA" ?!
OPPSIE, I'M SORRY!
TP TP TP
BOINK

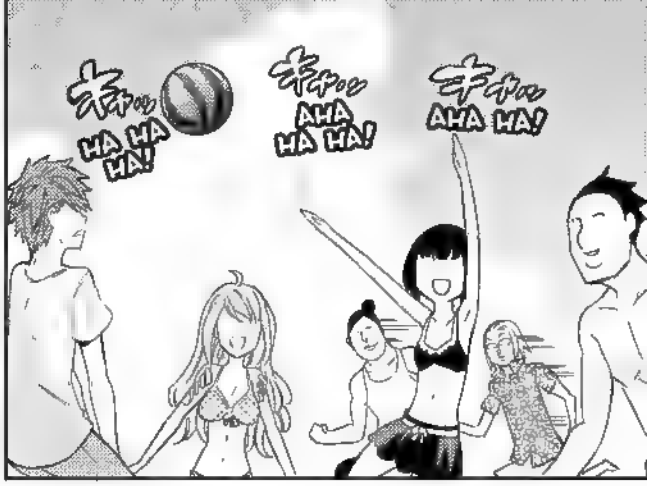
KAZAMA! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
SORRY, CAPTAIN. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO STOP HIM.
HUH?
JUST ABOUT ANY TEENAGE BOY WOULD SAY "YES" TO THAT!
YUP.
SURE THING!


THERE WE HAVE A CUTE, SWEET, AND POPULAR GIRL WHO HAS A... A...A PEARLY WHITE SMILE. A "CUTIE PEARL" FOR SHORT.
Damn, those are huge!
BUT DESPITE HAVING A NICE SET OF PEARLS YOURSELF, YOU'RE TOTALLY WASTING THEM! YOU'RE A "PEARL-WASTER" FOR SHORT!
I'M A "PEARL... WASTER"?

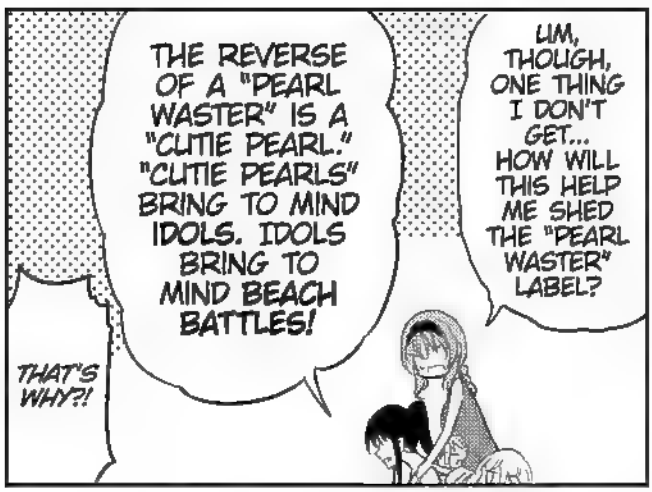
I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, CAPTAIN.
WHAT A WASTE!
GUYS! I WANNA PLAY, TOO!

ARE YOU REALLY FINE LIVING YOUR WHOLE LIFE UNDER THE HORRIBLE, DEHUMANIZING PEJORATIVE OF "PEARL WASTER"?!
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO TAKE THAT, TAKAO-SAN?
HUH? IS IT REALLY THAT... WHAT-EVER! I'LL FIGHT BACK!
JUST WATCH ME!!


HMPH! COMING TO THE BEACH AND PLAYING BEACH VOLLEYBALL? HOW BORINGLY NORMAL CAN YOU GET?
WHAT ?!


キャハハ HA HA HA!
キャハハ AHA HA HA!
キャハハ AHA HA!

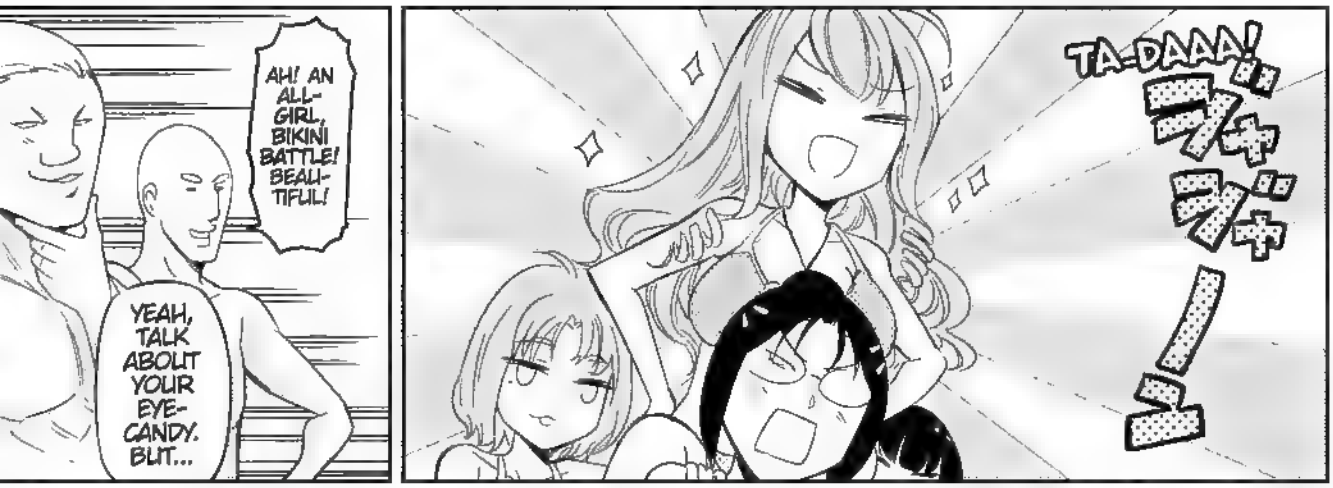
IT'S A LOT MORE FUN THAN VOLLEY-BALL!
R-RIGHT! WITH ALL THIS SOFT SAND AROUND TO CUSHION ANY FALLS, IT'S THE PERFECT TEAM GAME.


THE REVERSE OF A "PEARL WASTER" IS A "CUTIE PEARL." "CUTIE PEARLS" BRING TO MIND IDOLS. IDOLS BRING TO MIND BEACH BATTLES!
UM, THOUGH, ONE THING I DON'T GET... HOW WILL THIS HELP ME SHED THE "PEARL WASTER" LABEL?
THAT'S WHY?!

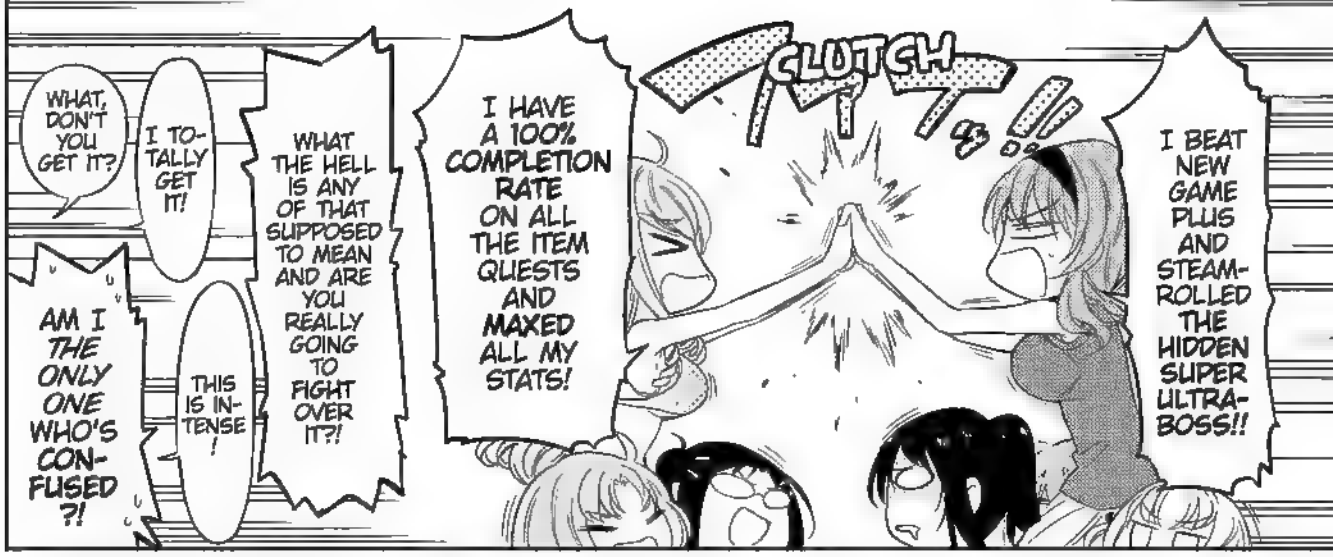
IN TRYING TO BE NEW, THEY'RE GOING RETRO!!
STRAIGHT OUT OF A SHOWA-ERA VARIETY SHOW!

SURE, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH DOING THE NORMAL AND BORING THING, BUT WHY NOT TRY PLAYING SOME DIFFERENT GAMES FOR ONCE?
The ocean...!
So much sand...so close...
A CHICKEN FIGHT ?!
Said by people who don't go to the beach often.

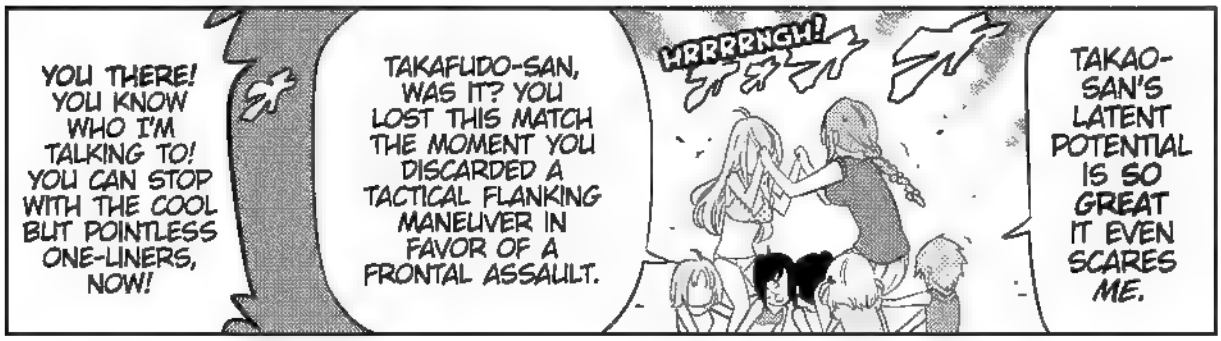
Ooh! Ooh!
Ooh, me!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST PICK YOUR OWN CLUB MEMBERS? WHERE ARE THEY, ANYWAY?
WHY DO YOU GET TO BE ON TOP?
WHO WANTS TO BE MY CAVALRY STEED? ♪
OH, OKAY! THAT SOUNDS FUN!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A CUTIE THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET A FREE PASS.
WSH


AH! AN ALL-GIRL BIKINI BATTLE! BEAUTIFUL!
YEAH, TALK ABOUT YOUR EYE-CANDY. BUT...
TA-DAAA!!

HMPH! YEAH, NEW MAX-LEVEL PLAYERS WILL RUN AROUND IN THE RARE "SWIMSUIT" COSTUME FOR A WHILE, BUT EVENTUALLY IT JUST STARTS TO LOOK OUT OF PLACE AND THE REAL VETERANS SWITCH BACK TO THE DEFAULT COSTUMES.
THAT'S US!
YEAH, I SEE WHAT SHE MEANS.
OOH!
I DON'T HAVE THE FIRST CLUE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT DON'T LET THEM TRICK YOU! NONE OF THEM WORE A BIKINI TODAY!!
More Gamer Logic
HEH. WE HAVE THIS AS GOOD AS WON ALREADY. AFTER ALL, WE'RE THE ONES EQUIPPED WITH THE RARE "SWIMSUIT" COSTUMES, MAKING IT LOOK LIKE WE ARE THE LONG-TERM, MAX-LEVEL PLAYERS!
HUH? OOH!
YEAH, THAT DOES MAKE SENSE.
THE HUH AND THE WHAT NOW?!
Gamer Logic
HOW COME THE OTHER TEAM IS WEARING NORMAL CLOTHES?
NO BIKINIS


I BEAT NEW GAME PLUS AND STEAM-ROLLED THE HIDDEN SUPER ULTRA-BOSS!!
CLUTCH
I HAVE A 100% COMPLETION RATE ON ALL THE ITEM QUESTS AND MAXED ALL MY STATS!
WHAT THE HELL IS ANY OF THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN AND ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO FIGHT OVER IT?!
I TO-TALLY GET IT!
WHAT, DON'T YOU GET IT?
THIS IS IN-TENSE!
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S CON-FUSED?!

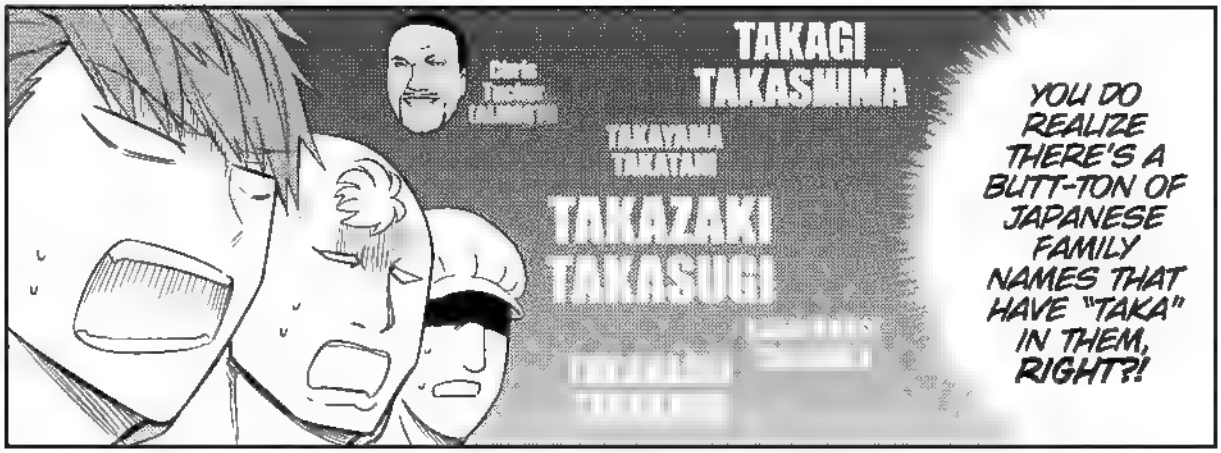
CON-FRONTING TAKAO-SAN HEAD ON? YOU FOOL!
HNNNNGH!


YOU THERE! YOU KNOW WHO I'M TALKING TO! YOU CAN STOP WITH THE COOL BUT POINTLESS ONE-LINERS, NOW!
TAKAFUDO-SAN, WAS IT? YOU LOST THIS MATCH THE MOMENT YOU DISCARDED A TACTICAL FLANKING MANEUVER IN FAVOR OF A FRONTAL ASSAULT.
HRRRRNGH!
TAKAO-SAN'S LATENT POTENTIAL IS SO GREAT IT EVEN SCARES ME.

AAH, SO YOUR NAME IS TAKAO? WELL, NO WONDER YOU'RE SO STRONG.
!

HOLY CRAP, I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE THIS INTENSE! IT FEELS LIKE THE VERY AIR IS SHAKING!
Aaargh!!
YEAH! IT'S START-ING TO REV ME UP, MAN!
BIG TIME!
NOW THE PEANUT GALLERY IS GETTING INTO IT! IS EVERYONE AROUND HERE LIKE THIS?!

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED. YOU HAVE THAT TAKA FAMILY... BEARING, AFTER ALL.
BUT GIVEN HOW CLUMSY AND UNEVEN YOUR MOVES ARE, I CAN TELL YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BOTHERED TO HARNESS THAT POWER!
BEAR-ING?!
POWER ?!
NO, NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT ...!


TAKAGI
TAKASHIMA
TAKAZAKI
TAKASUGI
YOU DO REALIZE THERE'S A BUTT-TON OF JAPANESE FAMILY NAMES THAT HAVE "TAKA" IN THEM, RIGHT?!

HNGH! I DID NOT ANTICIPATE FINDING SOMEONE WHO COULD WITHSTAND TAKAO'S POWER!
NOW IS WHEN HER "HORSE" MUST STEP UP AND SUPPORT HER! BUT...
SAKURA IS ALREADY RUNNING AT A FRACTION OF HER STRENGTH ...
IF ONLY THE WHOLE OCEAN WAS FRESH-WATER ...!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WOULD DO TO THE WORLD'S ECO-SYSTEM ?!
AND CHI-TOSE IS EVEN WORSE !
ALL THAT SAND...SO CLOSE...IF... IF I JUST COLLAPSED RIGHT HERE I COULD REACH IT...!
LOOKS LIKE THAT "HORSE" IS PRETTY LAME!
QUIVER QUIVER

MWAH HA HA!
HEE HEE HEE! EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!
WHY ARE YOU SIDING WITH THEM?! YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE YOURSELF SAY THOSE LINES IF YOU DON'T WANT TO!
YES, THIS IS THE PERFECT MOMENT TO DESTROY YOU SWIFTLY AND SURELY.
YOU TWO JUST RANDOMLY DECIDED TO JOIN IN! QUIT MAKING IT SOUND LIKE IT'S ALL ACCORDING TO SOME GRAND PLAN!
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THE CHANCE TO BEAT YOU ALL WOULD FALL INTO MY LAP LIKE THIS?!
!!

I DON'T GET IT...
WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?
DID SHE JUST CALL HERSELF A "CUTIE PEARL"?
YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BECOME A TRULY POWERFUL MERCENARY... MAYBE EVEN A "CUTIE PEARL" LIKE ME!
TEE HEE! TOO BAD! IF ONLY YOU HAD LEARNED HOW TO CONTROL YOUR POWER FROM A YOUNG AGE...

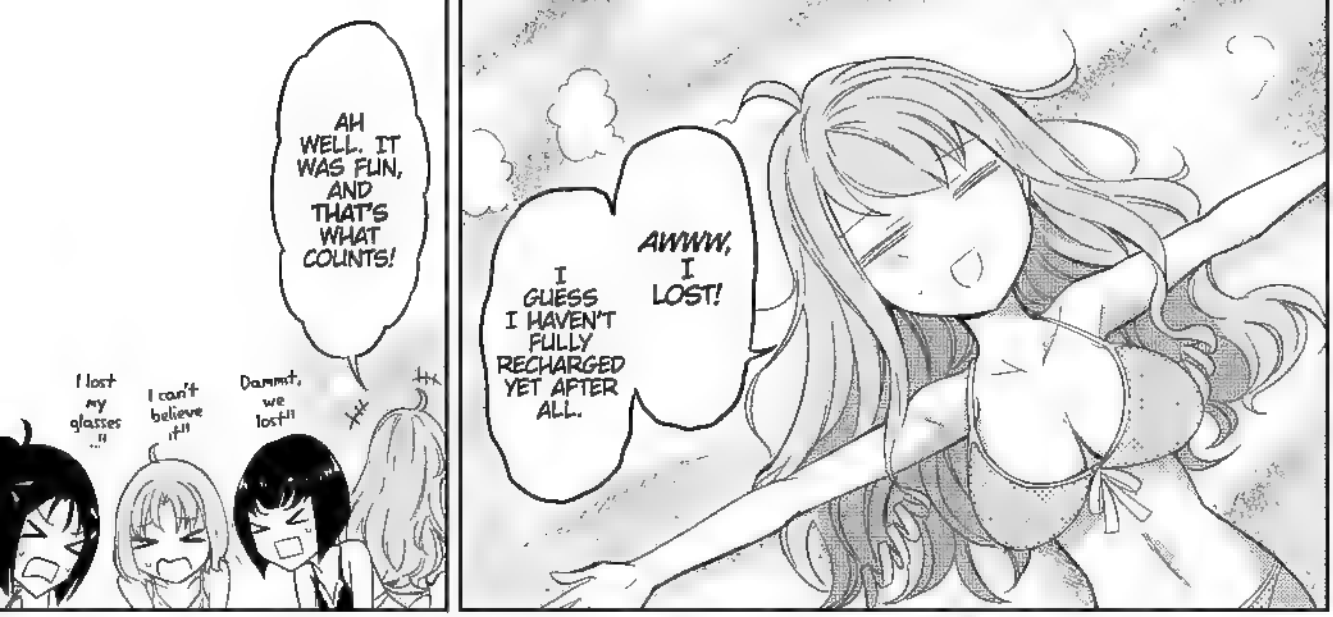
I ONLY WANT ONE THING...
Where'd the "mercenary" bit come from?
CLENCH
SO? I DON'T EVEN REALLY WANT TO BE A MERCENARY OR EVEN A "CUTIE PEARL."

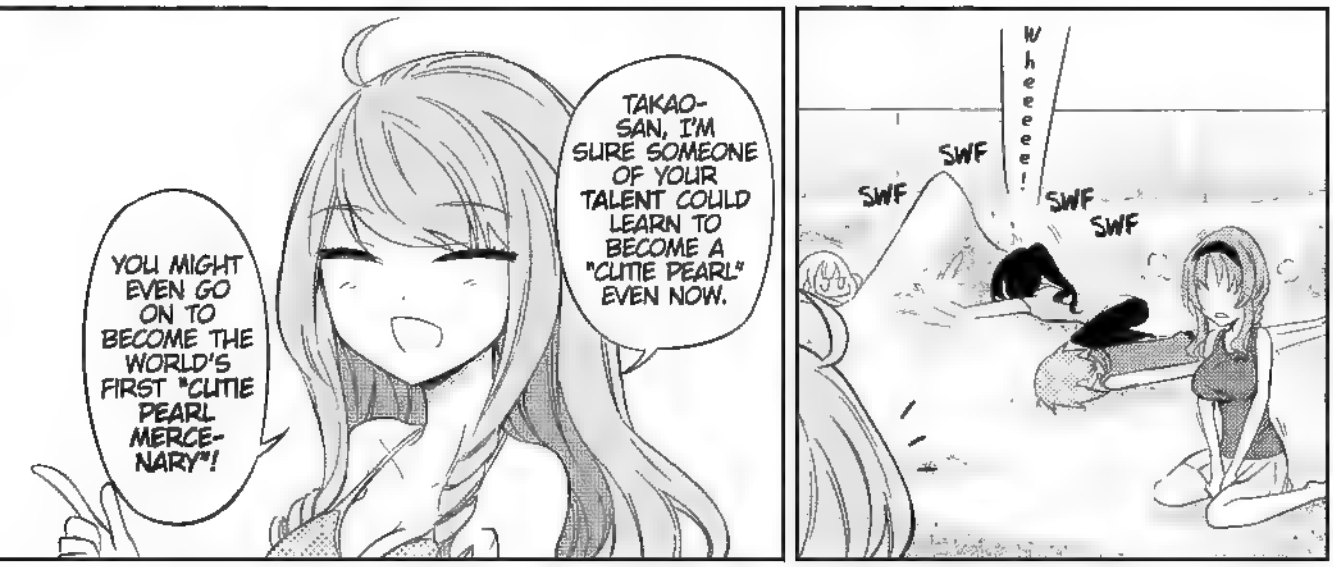
TO RID MYSELF OF THE SHAMEFUL "PEARL WASTER" LABEL!!

THEN QUIT WASTING ALL YOUR MONEY ON GAMES...
AND BUY A FRIGGIN' BIKINI!!
?!
Huh?!

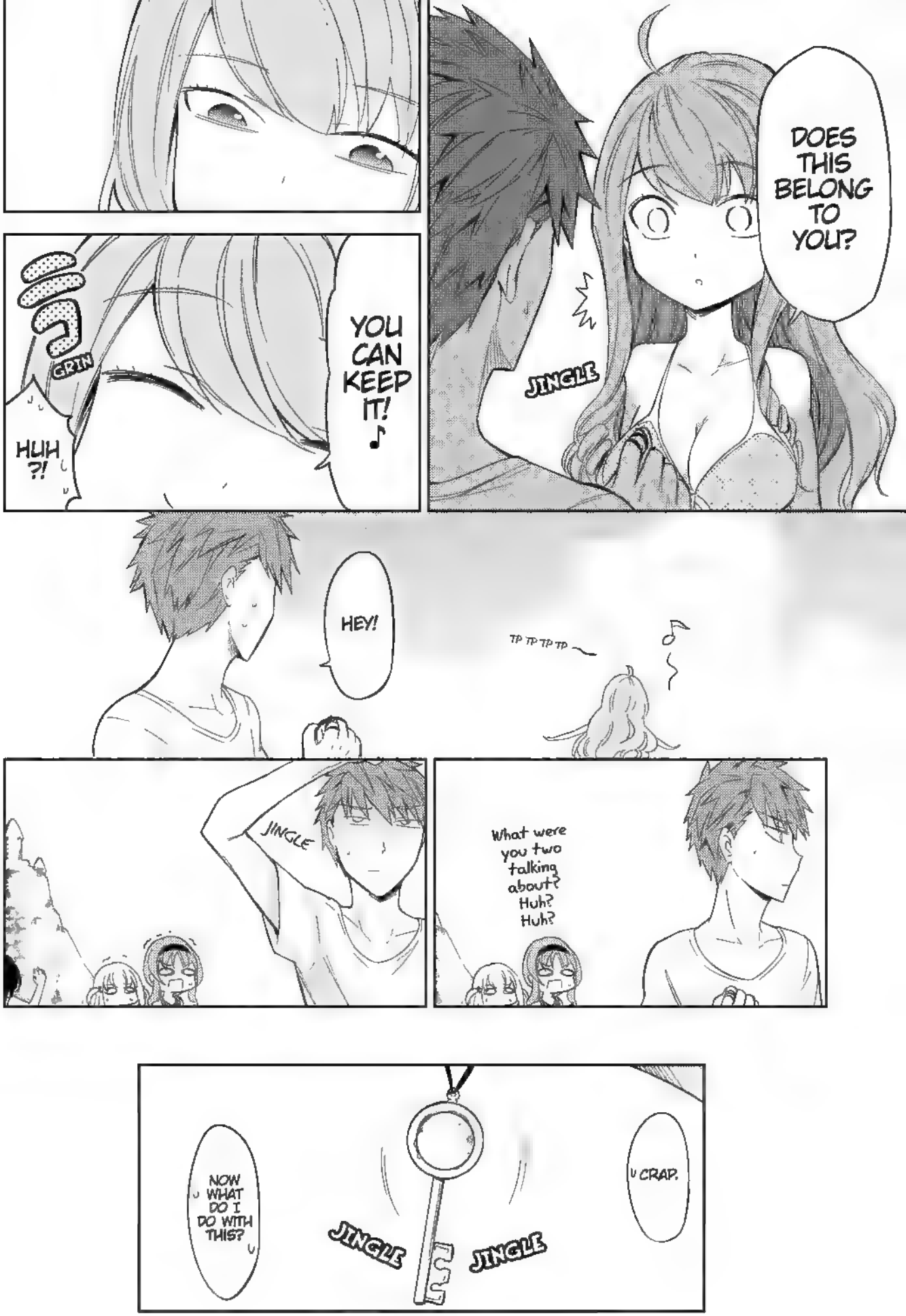
TOTTER
TOTTER
Ahh!
Unbelievable!
HAS WHAT?!
DON'T TELL ME THAT EVEN AMONG THE BLESSED "TAKA" PEDIGREE, SHE HAS... THAT?
QUIVER QUIVER
WH-WHERE DID THIS SUDDEN SURGE OF STRENGTH COME FROM?

WHOA!!
KA-BAAAM
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S A COMEBACK VICTORY FOR TEAM DEFAULT COSTUME !!
WHEN DID THEY GET TEAM NAMES ?!
SWSH
?
JINGLE
WHAT'S THIS?
PLONK


AH WELL. IT WAS FUN, AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!
I lost my glasses...!
I can't believe it!!
Dammit, we lost!!
AWWW, I LOST!
I GUESS I HAVEN'T FULLY RECHARGED YET AFTER ALL.

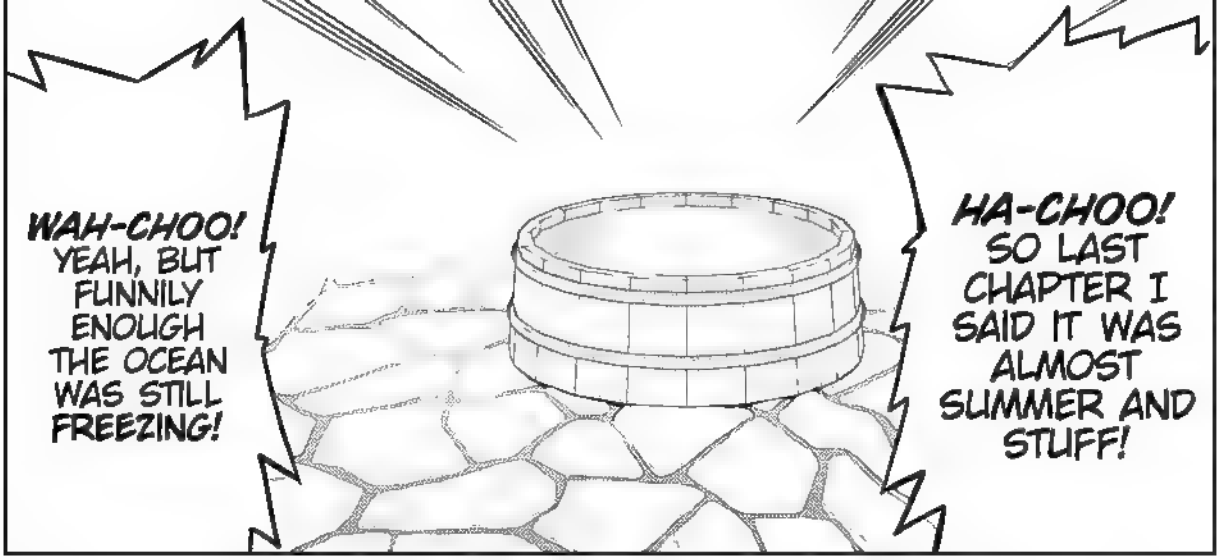

TAKAO-SAN, I'M SURE SOMEONE OF YOUR TALENT COULD LEARN TO BECOME A "CUTIE PEARL" EVEN NOW.
YOU MIGHT EVEN GO ON TO BECOME THE WORLD'S FIRST "CUTIE PEARL MERCE-NARY"!
Wheeee!
SWF
SWF
SWF
SWF

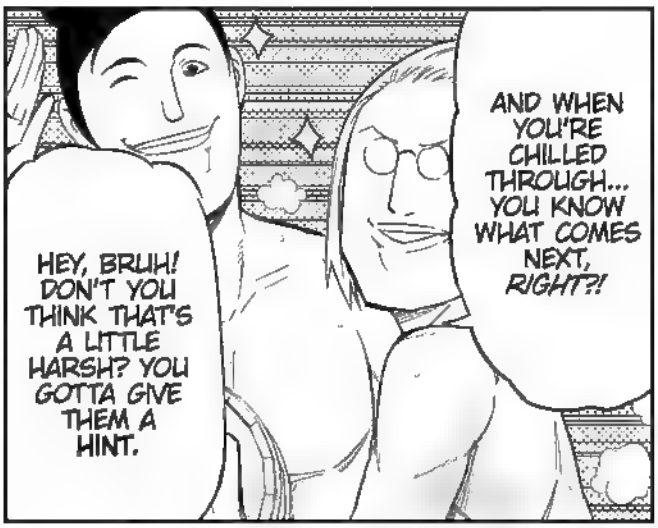
HEY, TAKAFUDO, RIGHT?
By the way, what exactly is a "pearl waster?" Or a "cutie pearl" for that matter.
!
HERE.
I'M HAPPY AS LONG AS I CAN GET RID OF THE "PEARL WASTER" LABEL.
I SAID I'M NOT INTERESTED IN BEING EITHER OF THOSE!

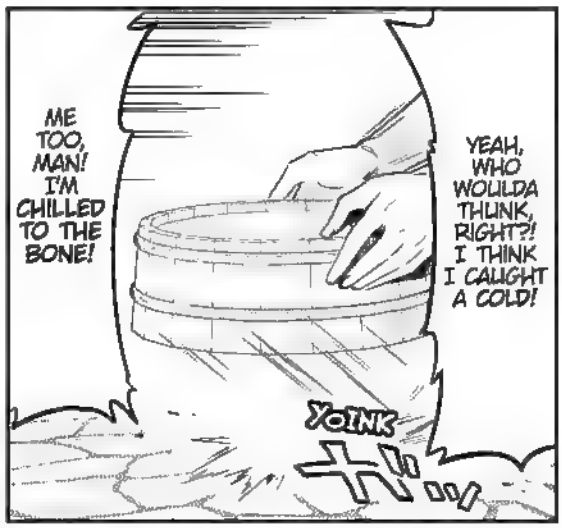

DOES THIS BELONG TO YOU?
JINGLE
YOU CAN KEEP IT! ♪
GRIN
HUH ?!
HEY!
TP TP TP TP
JINGLE
What were you two talking about? Huh? Huh?
NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS?
JINGLE
JINGLE
CRAP.

Lemme help make dinner.

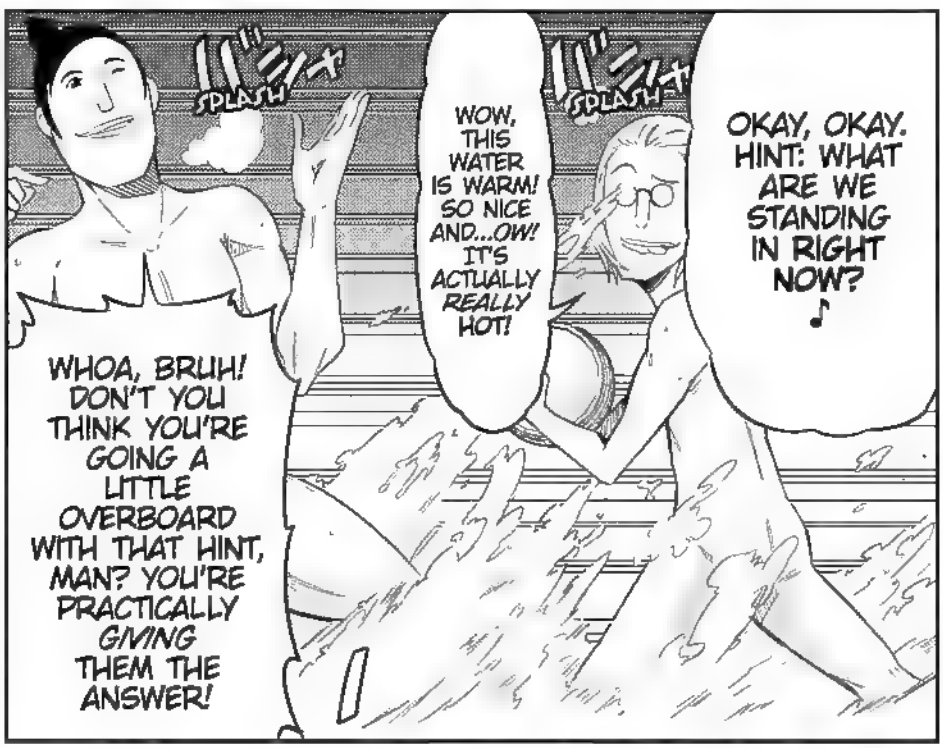
D-FRAGMENTS
ディーふらぐ!


HA-CHOO! SO LAST CHAPTER I SAID IT WAS ALMOST SUMMER AND STUFF!
WAH-CHOO! YEAH, BUT FUNNILY ENOUGH THE OCEAN WAS STILL FREEZING!


AND WHEN YOU'RE CHILLED THROUGH... YOU KNOW WHAT COMES NEXT, RIGHT?!
HEY, BRUH! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A LITTLE HARSH? YOU GOTTA GIVE THEM A HINT.


YEAH, WHO WOULDA THUNK, RIGHT?! I THINK I CAUGHT A COLD!
ME TOO, MAN! I'M CHILLED TO THE BONE!
YOINK

AH-CHOO !!


SPLASH
SPLASH
OKAY, OKAY. HINT: WHAT ARE WE STANDING IN RIGHT NOW? ♪
WOW, THIS WATER IS WARM! SO NICE AND...OW! IT'S ACTUALLY REALLY HOT!
WHOA, BRUH! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING A LITTLE OVERBOARD WITH THAT HINT, MAN? YOU'RE PRACTICALLY GIVING THEM THE ANSWER!

GOOD GOD, YOU TWO! JUST GIVE IT A REST, WOULD YOU... AH... AHHH...
AHH HHH-- AH-CHOO!
A HOT SOPR-- WA-CHOO!!
YES, THAT'S CORRECT! THE ANSWER IS A HOT SPR-- EAAA-CHOO!!

Chapter 51
This is the Best!!

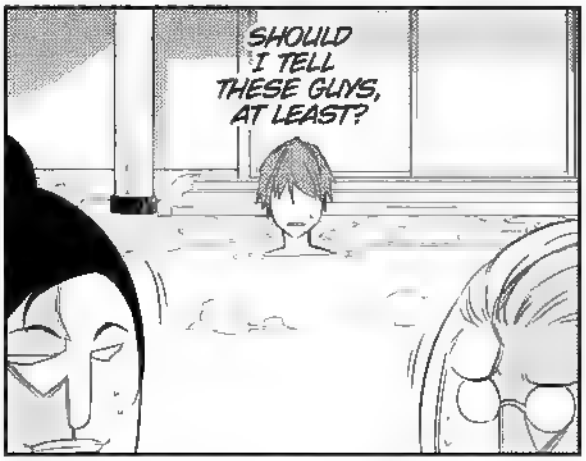
OH, LIKE YOU TWO ARE ONES TO TALK! ANYWAY, I'M FINE!
AH-CHOO!!
NAA-AAH! HE CAN'T HAVE A... AH...
WHRL
MY GOOD-NESS! A SNEEZE, KAZAMA-KUN? DO YOU HAVE A COLD?!

I don't have a sweetart.
Especially, since you abandoned us already.
Aren't you going to go swimming, Kazama-san?
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD MUCH OF A CHOICE. NO WAY WAS I STICKING AROUND ON THE BEACH WITH A BUNCH OF ANGRY, CRAZY GIRLS.
SO, WHAT IF I WANT TO GO SWIMMING?
THAT'S WHAT NORMAL PEOPLE DO AT THE BEACH!
What the hell is up with that sweet-smeller?

YEAH. DESPITE HOW MANY TIMES WE WARNED YOU THAT IT WAS, Y'KNOW, REALLY DAMN CO-- WA-CHOO!!
Graaaaah!!
YOU SURE? EVEN AFTER YOU DIVED INTO THE OCEAN AND WENT SWIMMING IN THAT ICE COLD WATER?
URK!

BUT WHAT THE HECK WAS SHE DOING WITH IT IN THE FIRST PLACE? AND WHY DID SHE JUST HAND IT TO ME?
Tee hee!
I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO TELL ANYBODY YET THAT I'VE GOT THE LAST KEY WE NEED TO RESCUE HASHIMOTO-SAN.
BUT CATCHING A COLD ISN'T EVEN MY BIGGEST PROBLEM.

ME, TOO. WANNA DO IT?
ザバー
SBLOOSH
WELL, THAT FELT GOOD! I'M NICE AND TOASTY NOW!
DO WHAT?


SHOULD I TELL THESE GUYS, AT LEAST?

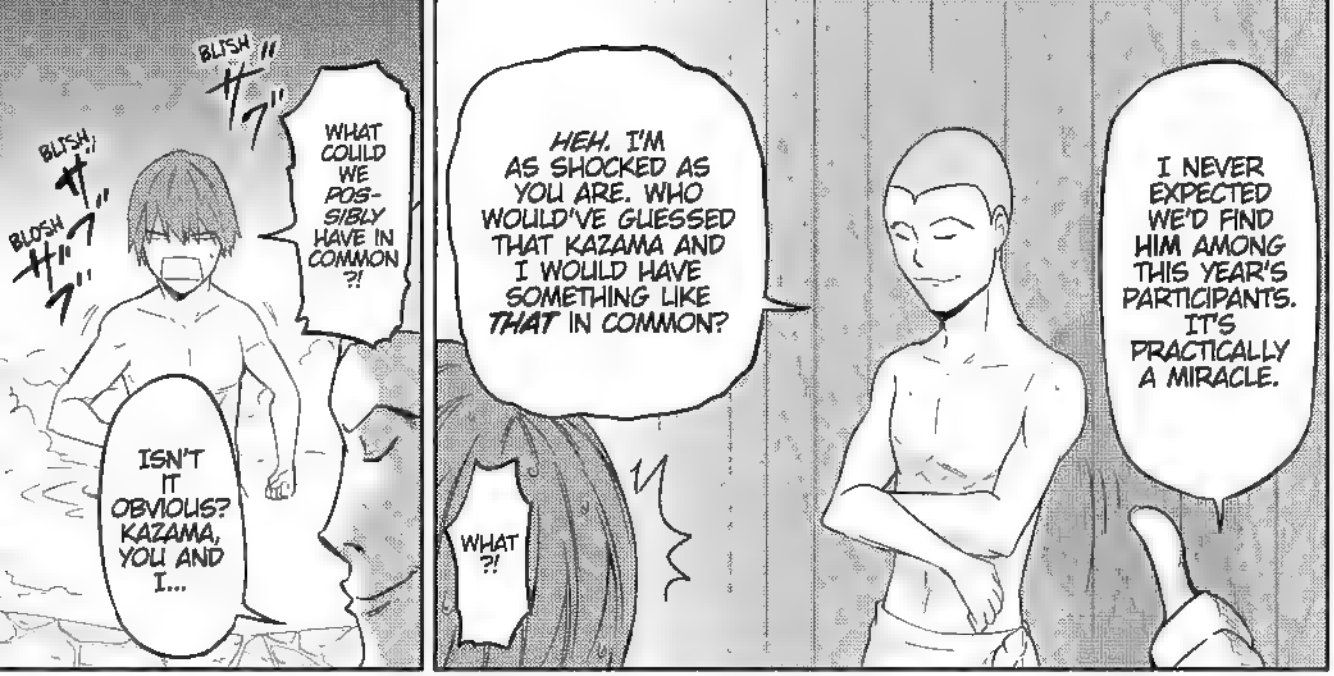
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS THIN, FLIMSY WALL IS THE GIRLS' BATH!
WHOOPS, I WAS GOING TO MAKE HIM GUESS. OH WELL...
WHAT?!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!

HEH HEH HEH. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU MEAN ...?!

Particularly the girls in my club!!
THEY'LL KILL YOU!
ME?!
NAH! WE'LL BE FINE, BRUH! AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT YOU ON OUR SIDE!
BLOSH
BLOSH
WHOA! HOLD IT, GUYS! DON'T BE HASTY HERE!
HEH HEH!
OH HO HO!
MWA HA HA!
HEE HEE!

I WASN'T GOING TO HELP YOU LOSERS OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT NOW I'M READY TO KICK YOUR ASSES MYSELF!
WHAT?! WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE MY LITTLE SISTER?! AND YOU REALIZE THAT WAS A REALLY DUMB THING TO SAY RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER BIG BROTHER, RIGHT?!
Mwa ha ha ha ha ha!
OUR TARGET WILL BE KAZAMA-KUN'S LITTLE SISTER, NOE-CHAN!

WHO THE HECK ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?! THE ONLY THING I KNOW ABOUT YOU IS THAT YOU'RE RANDOMLY CACKLING, JUST LIKE THESE BOZOS!
HEH HEH HEH. ME.
HIM WHO?!
HEH HEH HEH. WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT. THAT'S WHY WE CALLED... HIM!


BLUSH
BLUSH
BLUSH
WHAT COULD WE POSSIBLY HAVE IN COMMON?!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? KAZAMA, YOU AND I...
I NEVER EXPECTED WE'D FIND HIM AMONG THIS YEAR'S PARTICIPANTS. IT'S PRACTICALLY A MIRACLE.
HEH. I'M AS SHOCKED AS YOU ARE. WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED THAT KAZAMA AND I WOULD HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN COMMON?
WHAT?!

IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK MY VOICE SOUNDS LIKE?! SERIOUSLY?!
WE SOUND ALIKE?! THAT'S IT?!
DON DON DON
Listen! Can you hear it?
HAVE THE SAME VOICE!!
※Manga is not the best medium to convey this.

WHAP
!!

YES, SIR.
HEH HEH. YOU'LL SEEEEE!
NOD
SNAP

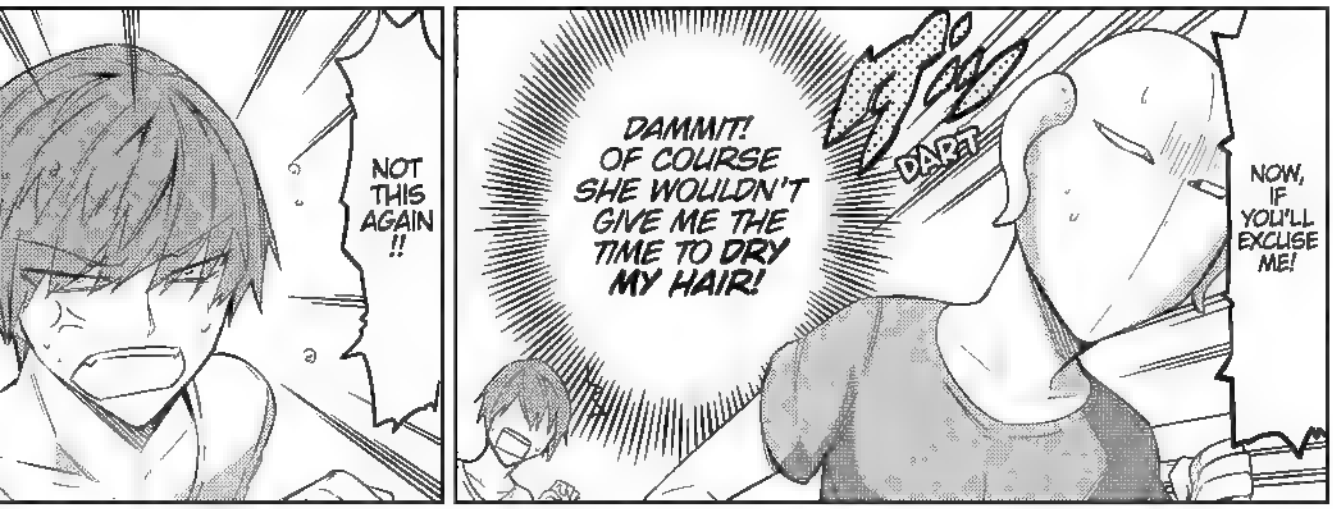
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THIS GUY HAVING THE SAME VOICE AS ME ANYWAY?!

SWAT
MRRPH!!
MRRPH!
SPLSH
SPLSH
MRRPH!!
MMPH!!
SPLSH
MMPH!! LEMME GO!?
YES!
DO IT.
NOE!!
RUN--!!
IS THAT IT? OKAY, IT'S NOT SO BAD SO FAR...BUT WHAT THE HECK ARE THEY DOING?!
NOE-CHAN, COULD I BORROW YOUR SHAMPOO?
UH, HEY! IT'S KAZAMA!
DO YOU SEE NOW? THIS WAS OUR GRAND PLAN!
AND I DO NOT CALL MY SISTER "CHAN"!
NOE-CHAA-AAN!
AND WHY ARE YOU USING MY LAST NAME? WAIT A SEC... DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT MY FIRST NAME IS?!
C'MON! IT'S ME! KAZAMA!

WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF... I GUESS...
EHEH!!
TO BORROW A BOTTLE OF SHAMPOO FROM ONE OF THE GIRLS!!
IDIOT! THERE'S NO WAY NOE IS GONNA TOSS HER SHAMPOO OVER INTO THE MEN'S BATH--
NOE-CHAAAN! LITTLE SIS?
HOLY CRAP, MY SISTER IS NICER THAN I THOUGHT!
BUT I REALLY HOPE SHE REALIZED IT'S NOT ME!!
SHAMPOO
For Especially Stiff Hair
WHAT THE HECK?! YOU GUYS HAVE GOT PROBLEMS IF THIS WAS YOUR GRAND PLAN!!
WASHA WASHA
WASHA WASHA
WOO-HOO!!
THIS IS THE BEST!!
YESSS!! THIS IS IT! WE DID IT, GUYS! WE GOT SOME SHAMPOO TOSSED OVER TO US FROM THE GIRLS... A LITTLE SISTER, EVEN!!

SHOOP
NOW PROBABLY ISN'T THE BEST TIME TO TELL THEM ABOUT THE KEY.
ACHOO!
ALL RIGHT, I'M OUT OF HERE.
I'LL JUST TELL 'EM TOMORROW...
BWAH?!
NO, WHO ARE YOU?!
SWFF
YOU AGAIN?!
NOT THAT I EVER REALLY FOUND OUT WHO YOU WERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
HOLD IT! WHO ARE YOU?!
HEY! THAT'S THE KEY I FOUND!
HUH?! WAIT, YOU'RE KAZAMA-SAN?!
WHAT?! YOU COULDN'T TELL IT WAS ME?!

N-NEVER MIND THAT RIGHT NOW, KAZAMA-SAN! GET DRESSED!
ACK! SORRY!
THERE.
THANK YOU.

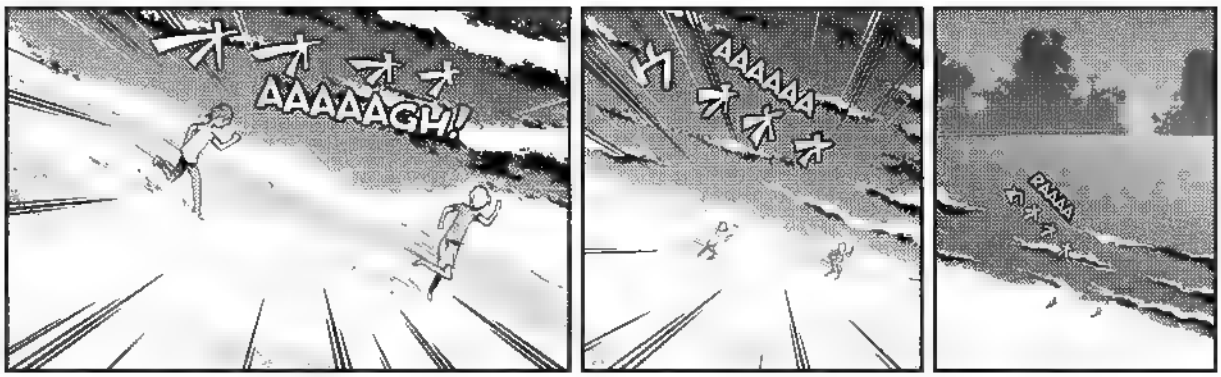

DAMMIT! OF COURSE SHE WOULDN'T GIVE ME THE TIME TO DRY MY HAIR!
DA-PAT
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME!
NOT THIS AGAIN !!

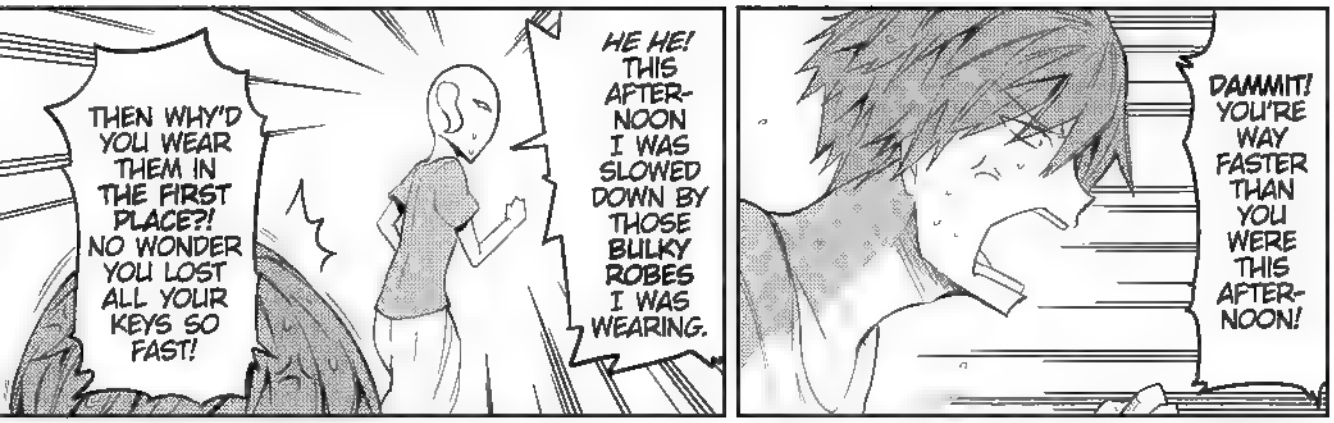
B'A-BAAAN
IT TOOK US FOREVER TO GET READY...
WE FINALLY MADE IT TO THE HOT SPRINGS!
MWA HA HA...

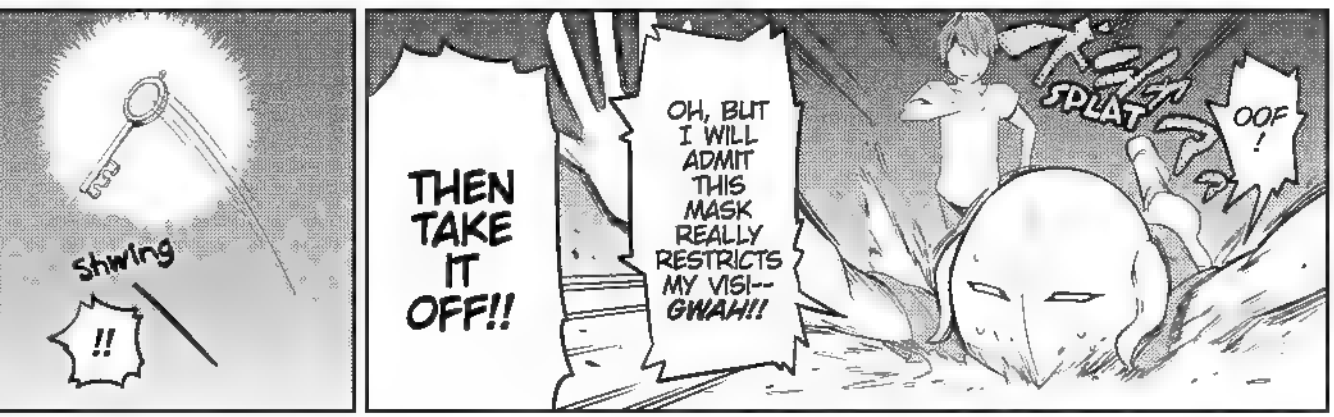
NOW, I WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO BEWITCH KAZAMA-SAN WITH HOW WARM AND ROSY-CHEEKED I AM AFTER A NICE, HOT BATH...
HMPH! STUPID NOE'CHI. HOW COULD SHE GO AHEAD WITHOUT US? SHE DESERVES SOME OF THIS AS PUNISHMENT.
I BET TAKAO WENT AHEAD AS WELL. I GUESS SHE'S GONNA GET SOME OF THIS TOO.
MAYBE EVEN SOME REVERSE THIS, TOO.
Mwa ha ha!

WAIT! GET BACK HERE!!
DASH
WAH-CHOO !!
HM? WAS THAT KAZAMA-SAN?
KASSHOSHO

NAH, COULDN'T BE. KAZAMA'S HAIR ISN'T THAT STRAIGHT.
THE VOICE ALMOST SOUNDED LIKE HIS, BUT IT WAS A LITTLE TOO GRAVELLY.
AH. IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME-ONE ELSE.
ALL RIGHT, IT'S HOT SPRINGS TIME, EVERY-ONE!
FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, I FEEL LIKE THIS IS OUR ONLY APPEARANCE IN THIS CHAPTER.
YAMMER
CHATTER
CHATTER
YAMMER
NO WAY! THIS IS THE HOT SRINGS CHAPTER! THEY HAVE TO SHOW MORE OF THE CUTE GIRLS!


AAAAAGH!
AAAAAA
PAAA


HE HE! THIS AFTER-NOON I WAS SLOWED DOWN BY THOSE BULKY ROBES I WAS WEARING.
THEN WHY'D YOU WEAR THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE?! NO WONDER YOU LOST ALL YOUR KEYS SO FAST!
DAMMIT! YOU'RE WAY FASTER THAN YOU WERE THIS AFTER-NOON!

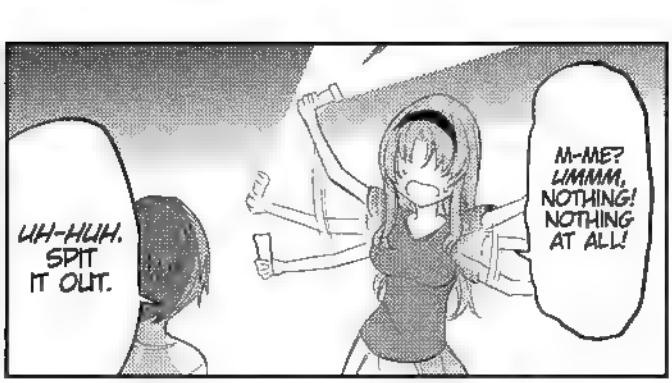

shwing
!!
THEN TAKE IT OFF!!
OH, BUT I WILL ADMIT THIS MASK REALLY RESTRICTS MY VISI-- GWAH!!
SPLAT
OOF!

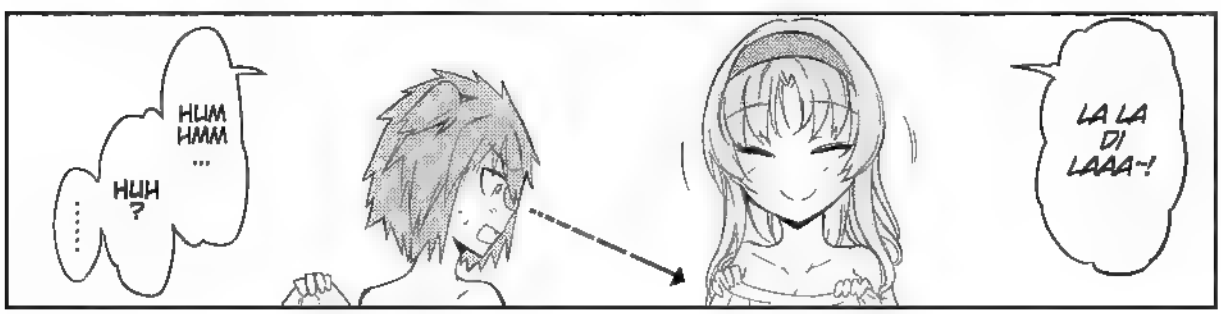
SHUT UP AND HELP ME LOOK!!
Mwa ha ha ha!
UM... MWA HA HA! DID YOU SEE THAT?! THE KEY IS GONE! NOW YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT GIVE UP!
THE KEY !!

!!
OH! IT'S THE MYSTERIOUS MASKED LADY! WH-WHAT NEFARIOUS THINGS ARE YOU PLOTTING THIS TIME?
US? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING WANDERING AROUND THE BEACH ALONE AT NIGHT?

FLASH
H-HELLO? IS THERE SOMEONE THERE?

WELL ...


M-ME? UMMM, NOTHING! NOTHING AT ALL!
UH-HUH. SPIT IT OUT.


LA LA DI LAAA~!
HUM HMM ...
HUH ?

NOE-CHAN, THEY'RE NOT HERE!
HEY, I KNOW HOW SMALL MY BOOBS ARE, THANK YOU!
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! NOE-CHAN, HELP ME LOOK!
HUH?! TAKAO-SEMPAI, YOU WEAR PADS EVEN AT YOUR SIZE?! WHOA!

I...I DON'T SEE THEM...

WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE, BUT I COULDN'T FIND THEM! THEY MUST HAVE SLIPPED OUT ON THE BEACH SOMEWHERE DURING THE CHICKEN FIGHT!
SNIFF
MY, I'M SORRY.
WHAT? THE ONLY THING I GOT FROM THAT FLASHBACK WAS A PANG OF SYMPATHY FOR THAT POOR "NOE" GIRL.
YEAH, UH, THAT'S GOTTA BE ROUGH.
NOE, DON'T TRY TO COMPARE YOURSELF TO TAKAO. JUST... DON'T.

WHY LOOK WHEN IT'S THIS DARK OUT, THOUGH? WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO COME BACK TOMORROW?
Besides, it's dangerous to be out alone at night
I CAN'T !!
UM, I MEAN, THEY'RE REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM OUT HERE. I WANT TO FIND THEM AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.
BESIDES, WHAT IF THE TIDE COMES IN AND WASHES THEM AWAY?
OKAY, OKAY.

UM...
THANK YOU.
WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR THAT STUPID KEY, ANYWAY.

UGH. ANOTHER TINY THING TO DIG OUT OF ALL THIS SAND. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND ANYTHING LIKE THIS?
THEY'RE SMALL. THEY CAN FIT IN MY HAND.
IS IT BIG? SMALL?
SO WHAT DID YOU DROP?

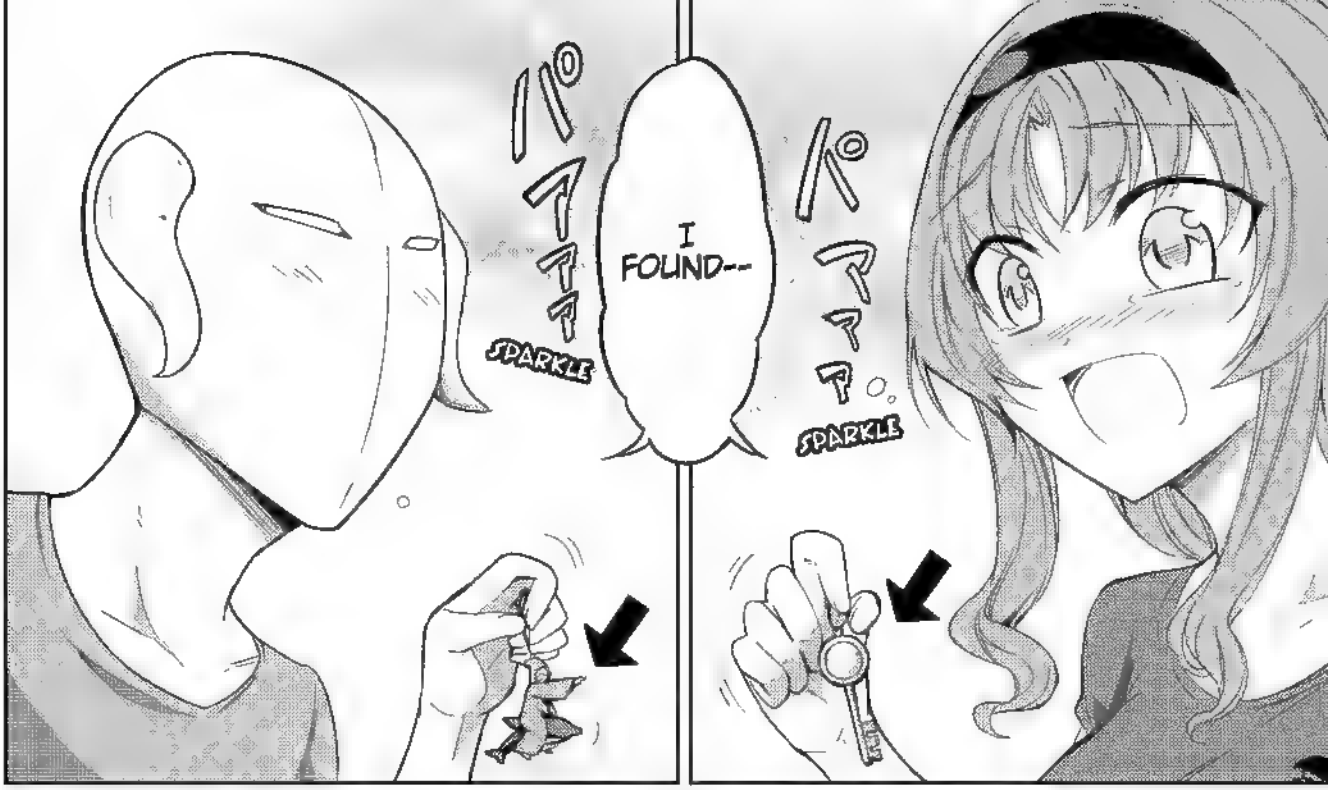
Chase Kazama down!
Hurry!!
I, UM, WAS IN A HURRY...
WAS SHE REALLY THAT DES-PERATE?

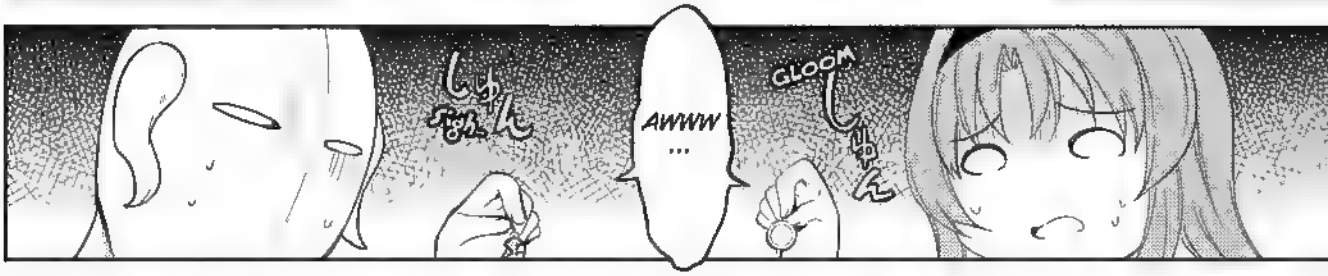
IF IT'S REALLY THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU, WHY'D YOU BRING IT TO THE BEACH?
SKFF
SNIFF
SKFF SKFF
WE WILL! WE HAVE TO!

?
WITHOUT THEM, THAT HASHIMOTO GUY CAN'T GET OUT OF THAT BARREL, RIGHT?

YEAH. A GUY'S LIFE DEPENDS ON IT, AFTER ALL.
WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO US, TOO!

!!
Oh no!
HOW TERRIBLE! WE ABSOLUTELY MUST FIND THAT KEY! NOW!
WHAT THE HECK?! YOU'RE THE ONE THAT STUFFED HIM IN A BARREL!
YEAH!! I know...
THEN, WHY ARE YOU HIDING BEHIND A MASK? TAKE IT OFF AND FACE US FAIR AND SQUARE!
YES, YES, I KNOW. BUT WE TOO HAVE OUR PRIDE...
YEAH! WHAT SHE SAID!
YEAH! YOU SHOULDN'T DO MEAN THINGS LIKE THAT TO PEOPLE!
HOLD ON... TAKAO, AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?
THE FIRST TIME YOU CAME AFTER ME, YOU AND YOUR CLUB WERE WEARING ROBES AND MASKS.
AH!
TINK
TINK
HM? WHAT IS IT?
TINK
GOD, WHY DO I KEEP MEETING WEIRDO AFTER WEIRDO? AM I EVER GOING TO GET ANY PEACE AND QUIET?


I FOUND--
パアアア
SPARKLE
パアアア
SPARKLE


AWWW...
GLOOM

YOU DID IT! YOU FOUND THE STUFF!
WHOA, WAIT!!

WELL, WELL. IT SEEMS LIKE THAT PRECIOUS, IMPORTANT THING YOU WERE LOOKING FOR...
IS THIS LITTLE CELL PHONE STRAP AND CHARM.
DANGLE
DAMMIT! YOU'RE GOING TO DEMAND A TRADE, AREN'T YOU?!

!!
WSH

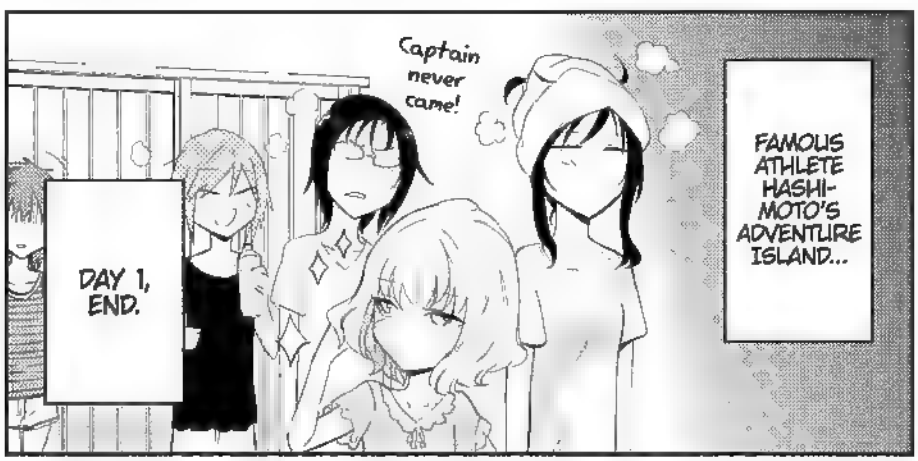
BUT TO ME IT'S AN IRREPLA-CEABLE TREA-SURE!
HUH?
SAY, UH, IS THAT THING REALLY THAT IMPORT-ANT TO YOU?
Y-YES! IT IS! I KNOW IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE SOME STUPID TOY...
HUH?
JINGLE
OKAY.
GRRRR
HM?
BUT. BUT, WE CAN'T GIVE UP THE KEY!
FINE. WE'LL TRADE THE KEY FOR THE CELL-PHONE CHARM.
WHATEVER. WE'LL JUST WIN IT BACK FROM HER TOMORROW IN A GAME OR SOME-THING.
AFTER ALL, THAT GIRL JUST RANDOMLY HANDED IT TO ME, ANYWAY.
HUH?

WHAT, HATA-CHAN DID THAT? GOODNESS, WHAT ON EARTH WAS SHE THINKING?
BUT I'M SURE SHE HAD HER REASONS! HERE, YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK.
OH, AND YOU CAN TAKE THIS, TOO.
WHAT THE HELL?! ARE YOU TWO IN THIS TOGETHER?! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?! ARGH!
THEY JUST KEEP HANDING IT TO ME. IT'S GETTING KIND OF EMBARRASSING.
Guess I may as well take it
ANYWAY, THIS WORKED OUT WELL FOR YOU, TAKAO. YOU GOT YOUR PHONE THINGY BACK.
YEAH. AND, UM, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME...
AUGH! STOP IT!!
HM?
WAIT A MINUTE ...
HUH?
DID YOU JUST CALL ME "TAKAO"?
YEAH.
And?
WHAT?
POINK
POINK
POINK
SWF
HMMM?

I'M WHAT?
YOU'RE... YOU'RE...!
YOU'RE K-K-KAZAMA !!
SHOVE
SBLOOSH
WWWWWWWWW!
!!
STU---!
MUTTER
HIGH, ANOTHER STUPIDLY STRONG CHICK ...
AND... AND IT JUST KIND OF FREAKED ME OUT, OKAY?!
AND YOUR VOICE SOUNDED GRAVELLY ...
I DON'T KNOW! BUT YOUR HAIR WASN'T SPIKY...
WHO THE HELL DID YOU THINK I WAS ?!
OH MY GOSH, I'M SO SORRY! I WAS JUST SO SURPRISED, I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS YOU...!
TWITCH
KAZAMA.
But...
Crap! She heard me!
You're calling me stupid ?!
!

UM...
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! REALLY!
.....
UH, YOU'RE WELCOME?

AH-CHOO!!
COME OUT OF THE WATER! YOU'LL CATCH COLD LIKE THAT!
AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT, HUH?!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT JUST HAPPENED...
BUT YOUNG PEOPLE SURE HAVE A LOT OF ENERGY!


FAMOUS ATHLETE HASHI-MOTO'S ADVENTURE ISLAND...
Captain never came!
DAY 1, END.

NEXT: Vol.08...

POINK
POINK
POINK
ACHOO
!!

D-FRAGMENTS
ディーふらぐ!

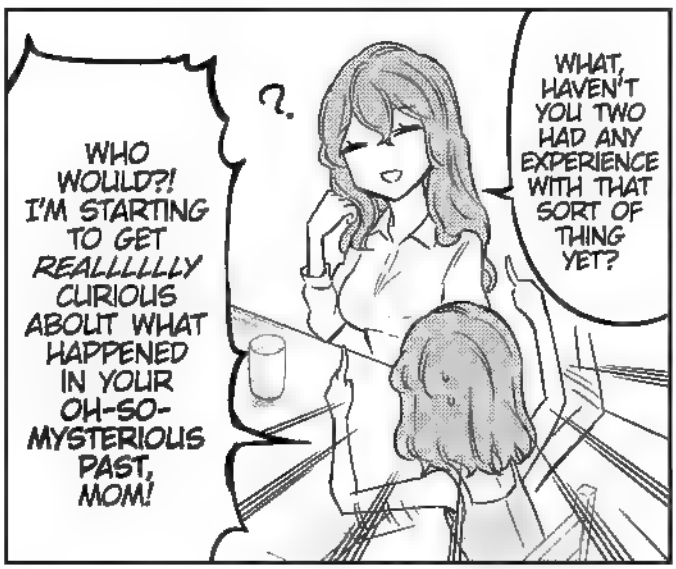
GROSS...

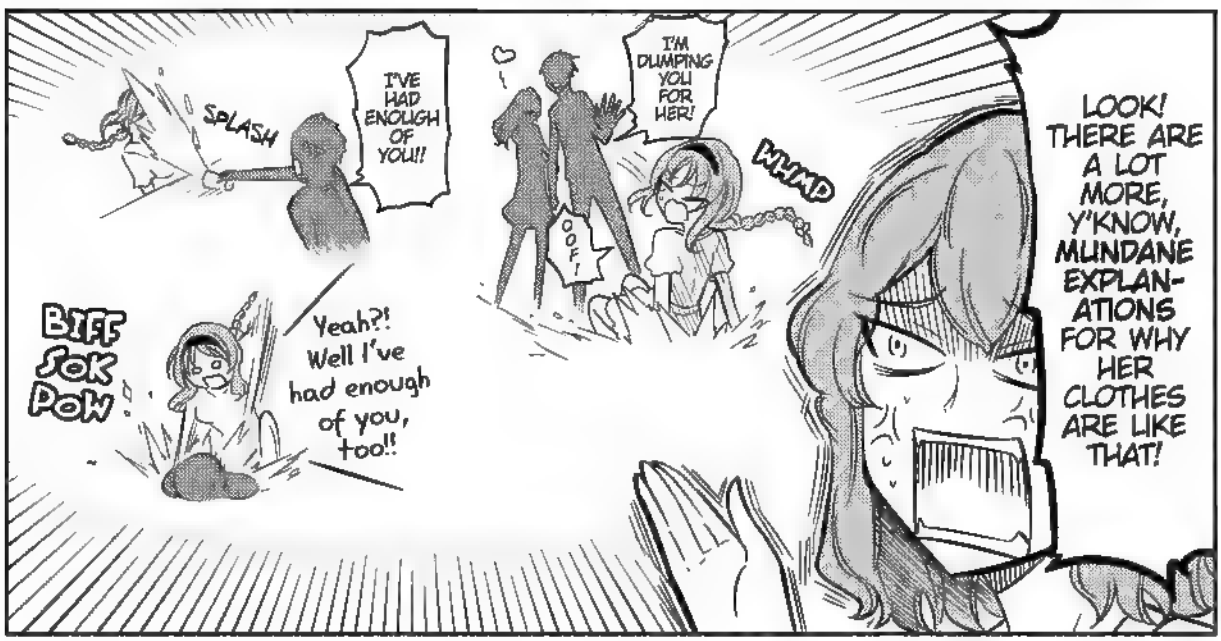
? ? ?
And this one, too.
And this one has an ice cream stain on it.
Oh dear!
?
My, how did this shirt get so dirty?
?

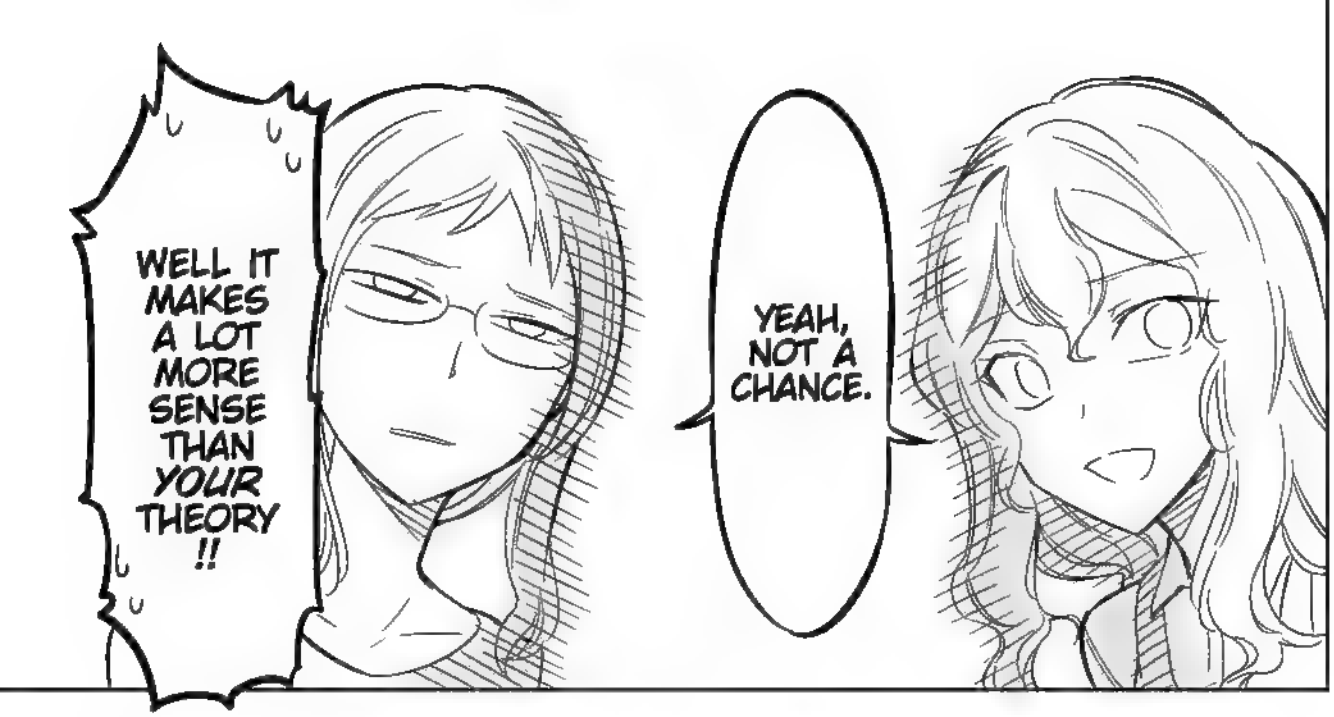
DAUGHTER DEAREST...
WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING INTO?
YEAH. THIS IS AN AWFULLY SUSPICIOUS LOAD OF LAUNDRY.
Y'KNOW, THESE REALLY DON'T LOOK LIKE CLOTHES SHE USUALLY WEARS.

OH MY! PERHAPS SHE WAS CAUGHT UP IN SOME DANGEROUS INTER-NATIONAL INCIDENT?
YEAH! I DON'T THINK SO, MOM!!
WELL SHE IS MY DAUGHTER, AFTER ALL. SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD BE NO SWEAT FOR HER!
DON'T JINX THINGS, MOM... WAIT, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL GET TO EXPERIENCE SOMETHING OUT OF THIS WORLD...
Ba-dmp Ba-dmp Ba-dmp
NOT HAP-PEN-ING!!


WHAT, HAVEN'T YOU TWO HAD ANY EXPERIENCE WITH THAT SORT OF THING YET?
WHO WOULD?! I'M STARTING TO GET REALLLLLLY CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN YOUR OH-SO-MYSTERIOUS PAST, MOM!

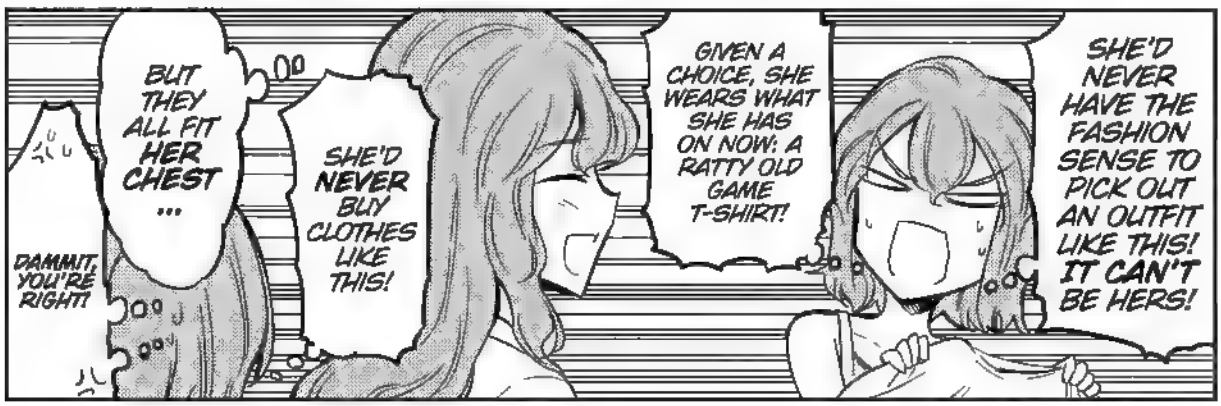

LOOK! THERE ARE A LOT MORE, Y'KNOW, MUNDANE EXPLAN-ATIONS FOR WHY HER CLOTHES ARE LIKE THAT!
I'M DUMPING YOU FOR HER!
OOF!
WHAP
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!!
SPLASH
BIFF SOK POW
Yeah?! Well I've had enough of you, too!!


WELL IT MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE THAN YOUR THEORY !!
YEAH, NOT A CHANCE.

OH MY! THE LADY DOTH PROTEST TOO MUCH!
FLAIL
FLAIL
URK! N-NO! NOTHING LIKE THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME! UH... ANYWAY, I DON'T PRY INTO YOUR PAST, MOM! HOW ABOUT YOU RETURN THE FAVOR?!
FLAIL
FLAIL
JUST BECAUSE YOU GET DUMPED BY GUYS LEFT, RIGHT, AND CENTER THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT HAPPENS TO YOUR LITTLE SISTER.

OH, HEY! WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
Up all night playing games.
HUH?

ACTUALLY, CONSIDERING HOW MUCH DIRTY LAUNDRY SHE HAS, IT'S AMAZING SHE HAS ANY CLOTHES LEFT TO WEAR!
And is it me, or did that one panel last page seem awfully familiar?
BOY, I'M THIRSTY. GONNA DRINK SOME MILK.


BUT THEY ALL FIT HER CHEST ...
DAMMIT, YOU'RE RIGHT!
SHE'D NEVER BUY CLOTHES LIKE THIS!
GIVEN A CHOICE, SHE WEARS WHAT SHE HAS ON NOW: A RATTY OLD GAME T-SHIRT!
SHE'D NEVER HAVE THE FASHION SENSE TO PICK OUT AN OUTFIT LIKE THIS! IT CAN'T BE HERS!

SOMEBODY DID SOMETHING TO YOU, DIDN'T THEY?! WHO WAS IT AND WHAT'S HIS NAME?! I'LL GO BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF HIM!!
YEAH! THESE REALLY NICE CLOTHES THAT YOU NEARLY RUINED!!

HEY, YOU!! WHAT THE HELL IS UP WITH THESE CLOTHES ?!
KA-TONK
SO, THEY ARE HERS ?!
HUH?! CLOTHES ?!

YOU GOT HIM TO BUY STUFF FOR YOU?!
UM, NOTHING HAPPENED, REALLY. SOME FRIENDS BOUGHT ME SOME CLOTHES, THAT'S ALL.
SO YOU DIDN'T GET THEM DIRTY YOURSELF?! HE DID IT?! GOD, WHAT KIND OF GUY WOULD BUY YOU CLOTHES AND THEN RUIN THEM?!
BUT THEN, AS SOON AS I PUT THEM ON, SOMETHING HAPPENED AND THEY GOT DIRTY. BOTH TIMES!
SO, I GUESS IT WASN'T ALL BAD...
Hee hee...
BUT IN THE END, HE DID SAY THAT THEY LOOKED GOOD ON ME.
SHE'S SUCH A PUSHOVER!!
HOLY CRAP...

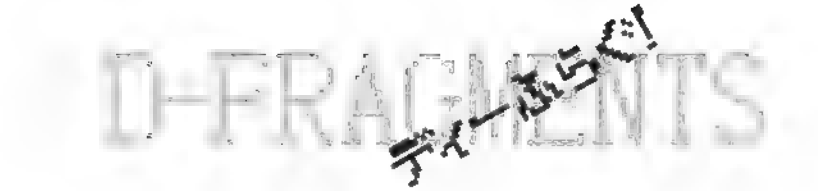
END

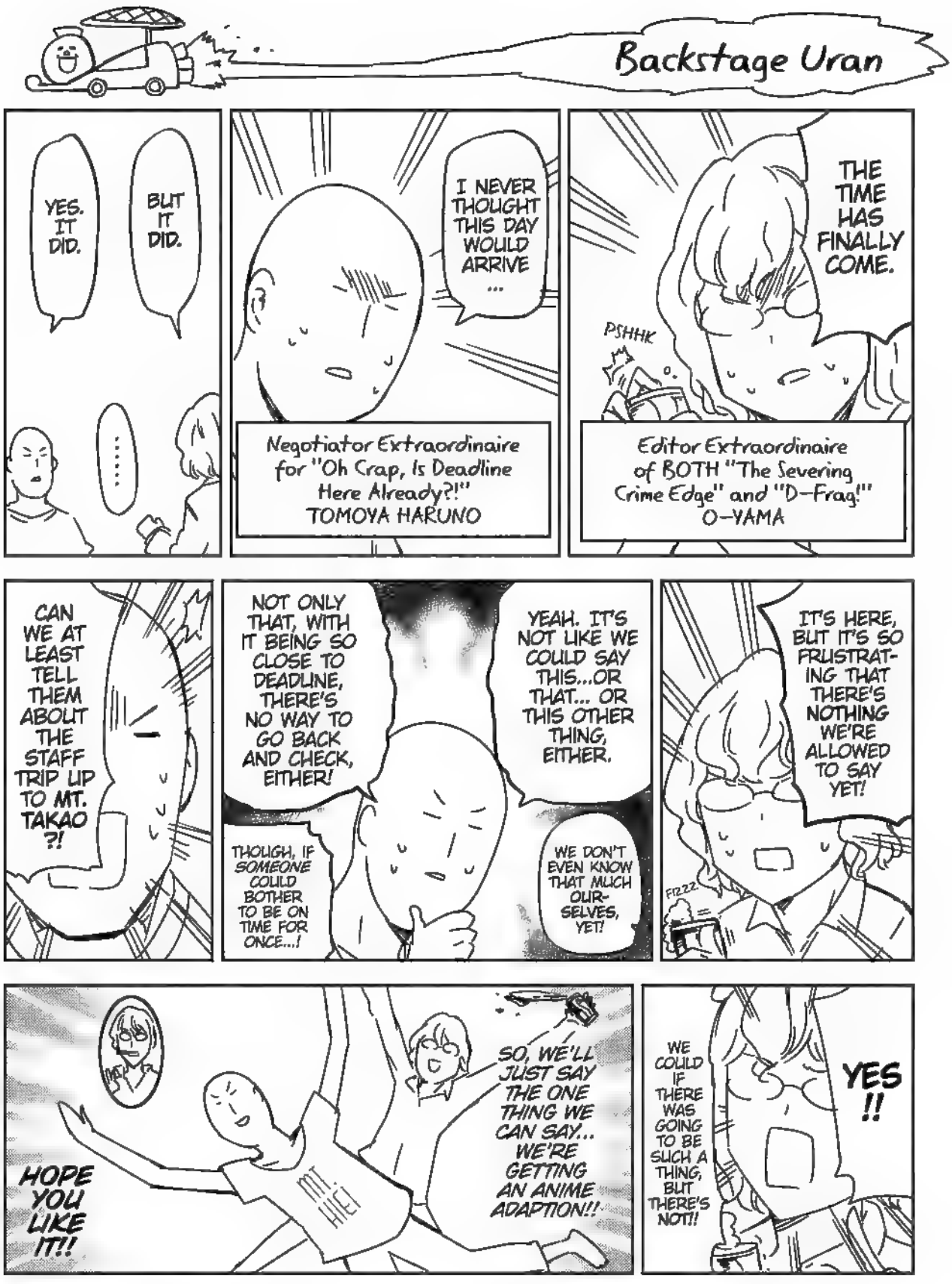
Bonus Manga 2

HOLY CRAP, DO YOU REALLY SEE MY SON AS THAT MUCH OF A LOSER?
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
BUT IT NEVER EVEN CROSSED OUR MINDS THAT KENJI WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE --GASP-- FRIENDS OTHER THAN US WHO HE'D --GASP-- HANG OUT WITH OVER THE WEEKEND!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
YOU GUYS HAVE CELL PHONES, RIGHT? WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TEXT HIM AND ASK FIRST?

.....
OR YOU COULD TEXT HIM AND ASK HIM WHERE HE IS...
YEAH !!
OKAY, GUYS! LET'S HUNT FOR KENJI!
UH, RIGHT... TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM FOR ME, WOULD YOU?
RATHER THAN A CROWD OF ACQUAINT-ANCES, A HANDFUL OF CLOSE FRIENDS IS ALL ONE REALLY NEEDS IN LIFE.

END

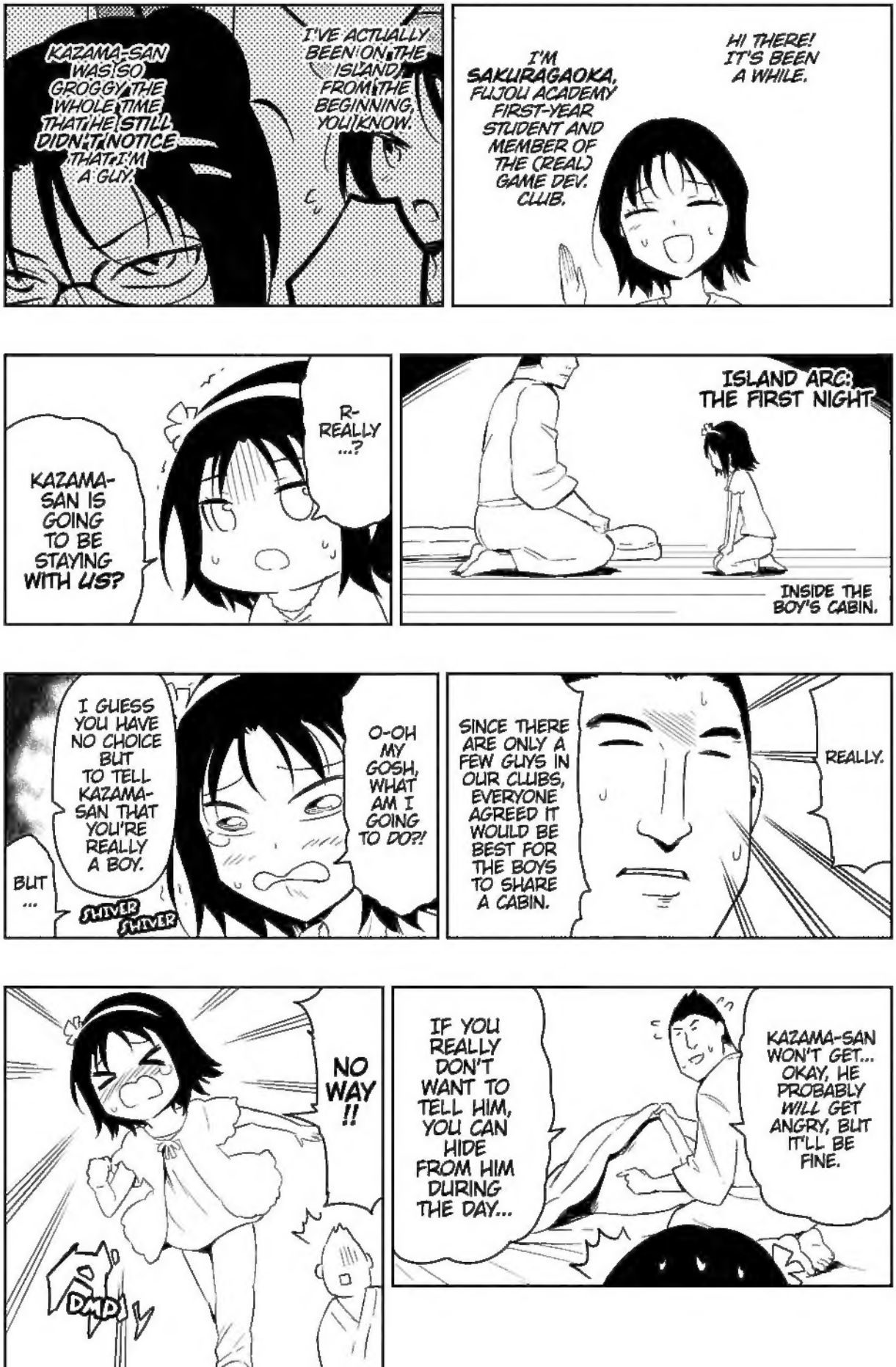

D-FRAGMENTS
ディーふらぐ!


Backstage Uran
YES. IT DID.
BUT IT DID.
……
I NEVER THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD ARRIVE …
Negotiator Extraordinaire for "Oh Crap, Is Deadline Here Already?!" TOMOYA HARUNO
THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME.
PSHHK
Editor Extraordinaire of BOTH "The Severing Crime Edge" and "D-Frag!" O-YAMA
CAN WE AT LEAST TELL THEM ABOUT THE STAFF TRIP UP TO MT. TAKAO ?!
NOT ONLY THAT, WITH IT BEING SO CLOSE TO DEADLINE, THERE'S NO WAY TO GO BACK AND CHECK, EITHER!
THOUGH, IF SOMEONE COULD BOTHER TO BE ON TIME FOR ONCE...!
YEAH. IT'S NOT LIKE WE COULD SAY THIS...OR THAT... OR THIS OTHER THING, EITHER.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT MUCH OUR-SELVES, YET!
IT'S HERE, BUT IT'S SO FRUSTRAT-ING THAT THERE'S NOTHING WE'RE ALLOWED TO SAY YET!
FIZZZ
HOPE YOU LIKE IT!!
MT. HEI
SO, WE'LL JUST SAY THE ONE THING WE CAN SAY... WE'RE GETTING AN ANIME ADAPTION!!
WE COULD IF THERE WAS GOING TO BE SUCH A THING, BUT THERE'S NOT!!
YES !!

SPECIAL THANKS!!
MIKAGE BAKU-SAN, YUKINOJOU-SAN. OHYAMA-SAN (EDITOR), LIGHTNING TOMIYAMA-SAN (DESIGN).

AND MY WONDERFUL READERS!!

After the events of Chapter 51...


KAZAMA-SAN WAS SO GROGGY THE WHOLE TIME THAT HE STILL DIDN'T NOTICE THAT I'M A GUY.
I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN ON THE ISLAND FROM THE BEGINNING, YOU KNOW.
HI THERE! IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I'M SAKURAGAOKA, FUJOU ACADEMY FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AND MEMBER OF THE (REAL) GAME DEV. CLUB.
KAZAMA-SAN IS GOING TO BE STAYING WITH US?
R-REALLY ...?
ISLAND ARC: THE FIRST NIGHT
INSIDE THE BOY'S CABIN.
I GUESS YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TELL KAZAMA-SAN THAT YOU'RE REALLY A BOY.
BUT ...
O-OH MY GOSH, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?!
SHIVER SHIVER
SINCE THERE ARE ONLY A FEW GUYS IN OUR CLUBS, EVERYONE AGREED IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THE BOYS TO SHARE A CABIN.
REALLY.
NO WAY !!
DMD
IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO TELL HIM, YOU CAN HIDE FROM HIM DURING THE DAY...
KAZAMA-SAN WON'T GET... OKAY, HE PROBABLY WILL GET ANGRY, BUT IT'LL BE FINE.

YOUNG MAN.
TWITCH
HOO!
HOO!
NOW WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
WHEN I RAN OUT OF THE CABIN, I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE THIS DARK AND SCARY OUTSIDE...
SEAN CONNERY-SENSEI!
IT IS DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO BE WANDERING AROUND ALONE AT NIGHT.
AND SO, I SAT AND LISTENED TO SEAN CONNERY-SENSEI...
AND LEARNED WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A REAL MAN!
SAKURA-GAOKA-KUN-- I MEAN, SAKURA-GAOKA-CHAN!! WHERE ARE YOU?!
GOD, WHY'D THAT CHICK HAVE TO GO RUNNING OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?!
THANK YOU, SEAN CONNERY-SENSEI! I'LL DO MY BEST!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE, BUT SOMEDAY I'LL FIND THE COURAGE TO LET KAZAMA-SAN KNOW THAT I'M ACTUALLY A GUY...

END

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

D-FRAG!

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VOLUME 7

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D-FRAG! VOL. 7
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Edited by MEDIA FACTORY.
First published in Japan in 2013 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
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ISBN: 978-1-626922-19-8

Printed in Canada

First Printing: December 2015

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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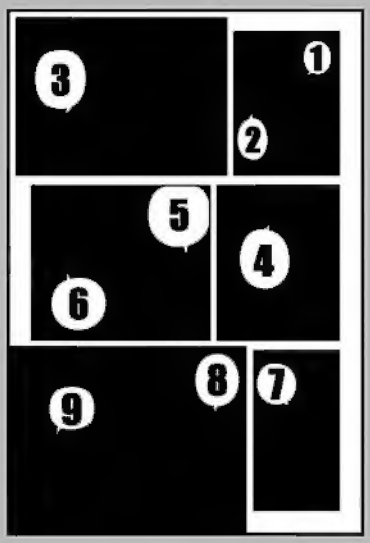
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



READY FOR ADVENTURE!

When the Game Development Club decides to go to the mysterious "Famous Athlete Hashimoto's Adventure Island," Kenji *knows* it's not going to be a normal field trip. Once on the island, they meet up with game clubs from other schools for a tournament, but before it begins, four masked villains kidnap the master of ceremonies! Can Kenji and his clubmates rescue Famous Athlete Hashimoto and still squeeze in a leisurely visit to the beach?

Rated: TEEN

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